



mind

Mensa Newsletter
Of Central Indiana



Dr. Elf von Santa, PhD, North Pole University, explains Gimme-Grabbee rules

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.

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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

So you're reading this early in the new, new year. Hope it finds you healthy, happy, and not yet having broken any New Year's resolutions—except maybe the really unreasonable ones. Seriously—qualify for the Boston Marathon?? Well, maybe next year. Hope springs eternal!



And BTW, here we are in the depths of winter. Jackie and I are avid gardeners, so we're finding ways not to lose our minds until we can go out and prepare for the planting and watering and other intensely fun stuff. Hope your habits for getting through the cold weather hold you in good stead for the next few months. If it helps, we'll try to keep you diverted with neat stuff to do indoors, and other stuff to look forward to:

- Theodore Talks resume this month.
- Dr. Robert Enteen of SF Mensa is hosting a Zoom talk on the next pandemic and how to prepare for it. See more below.
- Getting ready for the AG can keep you somewhat busy. Looks like it should be fun.
 - o To help with this, Brad Lucht from Mid-America Mensa will run a string of Theodore Talks looking at Kansas City. First up is KC BBQ! See the article below for registration info.
- And Judy Unger from San Francisco MENSA is coordinating a series of Zoom lectures. This month's will cover the planet Mars and humanity's efforts to understand and reach it.
-



Steven Clements	Columbus	IN	Joined
Dominic Martin	Vincennes	IN	Rejoin
Parker Salrin	Greenwood	IN	Joined
Alixandria Teague	Franklin	IN	Joined

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had heart-warming holiday celebrations.

Upcoming Monthly Programs:

January: Games and Conversation – No program, just casual conversation and/or games. Bring a game to share if you'd like.

February: Weird Science with Rob Pyatt, PhD

– Our guest speaker in February will be the always popular Rob Pyatt, PhD! Rob is one of our most popular speakers. He LOVES talking about science, the scientific method, and getting his audiences to think about and be critical of research studies. Get ready to be dazzled by Weird Science as he tells us about the latest questionable science research studies.



ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) – Games and Conversation Night at Candis King's

We had a nice turnout for December's G & C at Kings. This month's gathering happened to be more conversation than games. Everyone enjoyed Candis' tasty appetizers and lemon bars that made you pucker (in a good way). We got to see Robert's computer-controlled Christmas decorations in progress in their front yard.

ICYMI – Holiday Party

The Holiday Party drew a nice crowd of 30 members, new members, and guests. Dinner was delicious, thanks to everyone who contributed to the pitch-in.

As usual, there were several gifts in the Gimmee Grabee gift exchange that were enthusiastically "fought over" because of their creative wrappings.

One had a beautiful, sparkling Origami star on it; another had LOTS of bows (see picture →); another emitted "passing gas" sounds intermittently. Many thanks are due to our Special Elf **Alan Schmidt**, who once again emceed the Gimmee Grabee Gift Exchange. See more pictures elsewhere in MIND.



No CIM RG This Spring – In pre-pandemic times, Central Indiana Mensa typically held a Regional Gathering in January or February. We were hoping to resume this popular event in 2024, but it was not to be for several reasons. We **WILL** have our **Outdoor Gathering** the weekend of May 17-19. Watch MIND for details.

Paula Ferguson

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Paula Ferguson, Central Indiana Mensa's NE Area Coordinator, passed away on December 10, 2023, after a short time in hospice. Here is a link to her obituary: <https://www.indystar.com/obituaries/ins155462>.

Paula enjoyed family time, true crime, sports, and politics. Her greatest regret was her failure to teach her children and grandchildren the proper usage of the *lie/lay* verbs and to stop the extraneous use of the word "like" in their speech.



Paula was a longtime member of Central Indiana Mensa. She was elected to CIM's ExCom (governing board) in 2022. We had gotten to know her via Zoom during the pandemic. In addition to serving on the board, Paula organized many Sunday Fun Day events for Mensans in NE Indiana, judged scholarship essays, was on two CultureQuest teams, and attended Monthly Gatherings and Sunday Socials on Zoom. Paula lived in Daleville with her husband, Bob. We will miss her smiling face and her many contributions to Central Indiana Mensa.

A few of Paula's strong points for me was her meticulous planning, her follow-through, her ability to really listen, and being very inclusive of others. She will be missed. -Marcele

[Paula's death] breaks my heart. I never got to meet her in person. I am so glad that we got to meet her via Zoom. I mentioned to someone not long ago that she was one of the best things that came from the Pandemic. -Teresa

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
<i>The Flip</i>	Jeffery J. Kripal	1/21/2024
<i>American Cosmic</i>	DW Pasulka	2/18/2024
<i>The Mindful Body</i>	Ellen Langer	3/17/2024
<i>Outlive</i>	Peter Attia	4/21/2024
<i>The Coming Wave</i>	Mustafa Suleyman	5/19/2024
<i>The Matter With Things</i> , Chapter 12	Iain McGilchrist	6/16/2024

<i>The Elegant Defense</i>	Matt Richter	7/21/2024
<i>The Comfort Crisis</i>	Michael Easter	8/18/2024
	Brian Cox	
<i>Black Holes</i>	Jeff Horshaw	9/22/2024
<i>Being Heumann</i>	Judith Heumann	10/20/2024
<i>Anaximander</i>	Carlo Rovelli	11/17/2024
<i>Naked Statistics</i>	Charles Wheelen	12/15/2024
<i>The Gulf:</i>		
<i>Making of an American</i>	Jack E. Davis	1/19/2025
<i>Sea</i>		

Mensa Book Group Previews

Rich Gibson

THIS 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 21, 2024, at 2:00pm. 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. The 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 21 Book Group meeting, 2:00pm, either in person or via Zoom. Hope to see you there!

NEXT MONTH: *American Cosmic: UFOs, Religion, Technology*

American Cosmic: UFOs, Religion, Technology, by D. W. Pasulka, 304 pages, published in 2019. To be discussed at the MBG meeting on Sunday, February 18, 2024, at 2:00pm. See Calendar or Meetup for more info.

Our previous book, *The Flip*, made a case for reality being more than science, religion, philosophy, or all three can explain. It claimed that human experiences of the paranormal point to a possibility that consciousness is universal.

Now, D. W. Pasulka, a professor of religious studies at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, has written a book about another paranormal human experience: belief in extraterrestrial life. More than half of American adults and more than three quarters of young Americans believe, a level that rivals belief in God. *American Cosmic* examines this thriving belief system, a system that is changing, or perhaps even supplanting traditional religions. The author began a six-year ethnographic study, expecting that UFO experiences were similar to mystical experiences recorded throughout history, but came to recognize there may be an underlying reality to them. She argues that widespread belief in aliens is due to a number of factors including modern media like The X-Files, which media can influence memory; and the credibility lent by the search for exoplanets that might support life. *American Cosmic* explores the intriguing question of how people interpret unexplainable experiences (note the tie-back to The Flip) and argues that the media is replacing religion as a cultural authority that answers believers' questions about extraterrestrial intelligence. Please read the book and attend in person or via Zoom to share your thoughts on this topic. Hope to see you on Sunday, February 18, at 2:00pm!

Puzzle Column

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

BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, all solutions must contain only the letters in BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER, according to the clues and letter counts. For example, companion of Parks (10) would be RECREATION.

1. Redirection of a light wave (10)
2. Pre-birth occurrence (11)
3. Payment of maximum attention (13)

4. An ion consisting of elements #6 and #8 (9)
5. A popular Ocean Spray ingredient (9)
6. Violation of allegiance (9)
7. Withdrawal of a statement or undertaking (10)
8. The use of trickery (9)
9. Sustained decline in value of a market index (10)
10. Put in the pokey (11)

Solutions on page 21

Ripped From the Pages of MIND!

Teresa Gregory

As MIND enters its sixth decade, let's look back and see where we've been. If anyone is downsizing and runs into any old Mensa stuff they'd like to share, or just let me make a copy, please contact me! Any old MINDs, RG and other event programs, faded tattoos, literary journals, t-shirts and tote bags, PHOTOS.



October 1979 by Andy and Arlan Andrews.

January 2024 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday

1/3, noon ET - Virtual *Online*

1/17, 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

1/6, 10:00am – 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 until 11:00am, then lunch starts..

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

LIVE Bridge SIG – NEW

1/14, 2:00pm – 4:00pm ET

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

LIVE Mensa Chowhounds Lunch – 2nd and 4th Wednesday

1/10, 2:00pm ET - Eating Fresh (Vietnamese), 6255 N. College Ave., Indianapolis

1/24, 2:00pm Bando Korean Restaurant, 8015 Pendleton Pike, Indianapolis
Late lunch or early dinner? You decide!

For more information or to RSVP: Bob Zdanky, 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,

1/12, 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; Children under 6: free.

Our Legendary Annual Games and Conversation Night!

VIRTUAL and LIVE Book Group

1/21, 2:00pm ET

The Flip – Jeffrey J. Kripal

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

1/21, 6:00pm ET

Noble Roman's Craft Pizza & Pub, 11715 Allisonville Rd., Fishers **For more information or to RSVP:** Bob Zdanky, 317-912-3590

***In Person* Sunday ~~Fun Day~~ Sootheday**

1/14, 2:00pm ET

**Pendleton Community Library (Magnolia Room), 595 E. Water St,
Pendleton, IN 46064**

Join Central Indiana Mensa members for congenial company and casual talk as they explore handling holiday stress.

Bring a stressed friend!

Contact Marcele Everest – meebus@gmail.com



January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2	3 *Indy Lunch Bunch*
7 *Sunday Social*	8	9	10 Chowhounds
14 Sunday Fun Day; Bridge; *Sunday Social*	15	16 * ExCom*	17 Indy Lunch Bunch
21 Book Group; Dining Out	22	23	19 Chowhounds
28 *Sunday Social*	29	30	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
4	5	6 Ham 'n' Eggs
11	12 Monthly Gathering	13
18	19	20
25	26	27

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

Happy New Year!

Dues: A motion from the Finance Committee for the December 9th Board of Directors (AMC) meeting would raise annual dues from \$79 to \$107, or over 35%. That would be effective April 1st, but timely membership renewals wouldn't cost more until 2025. Our bylaws say an increase cannot go into effect unless passed at two separate AMC meetings. If approved, it will be voted on again – probably in March – so you have time to let us know your thoughts. The Committee justified their motion by noting that inflation since the last dues increase in 2017 would mean dues should currently be \$99.20. They further stated that if we were spending at a “level appropriate with all of [American Mensa's] business needs, there would be an annual deficit of around \$800,000.” They projected that this dues increase would boost revenues between \$625,000 and \$967,000, even with a possible 10% drop in membership.

I am frankly concerned about this proposal. The motion's wording is dictated by our bylaws, so there's no indication where the extra money will be used – and we won't have specifics until the 2025-26 budget is proposed in Spring, 2025. There are certainly many good ideas including additional Local Group support, technology upgrades, increased marketing, and more competitive salaries for our staff. For now, however, those are only suggestions.

While some dues increase is likely needed, this large jump crosses that psychologically important \$99 level into triple digits. Surveys repeatedly express concerns about the value members receive for the dues they pay. I'm afraid this could cause us to continue the gradual membership decline we've seen since our peak of 57,947 in 2010.

Governance: The Governance Task Force met in late November to discuss how we run Mensa. Our Actions Still in Effect (ASIEs) and job descriptions clearly need review. We need to grow skilled leaders and have robust onboarding processes at the national level.

Pundits generally set an effective board size at 7 or 9; we have 21 including non-voting members. New York law hampers us when selecting Regional Vice Chairs (RVCs), particularly with mid-term replacements. It's possible a board model with a Chair, 1st Vice Chair, Treasurer, and several at-large members could be more effective. The RVC position could continue, but perhaps not as an AMC member. That could help make the role more manageable for people with day jobs. Stay tuned as we continue pondering alternatives.

Elections: Candidates seeking office have until January 31st to get on the ballot. Please take a moment to electronically sign as many petitions as you'd like by navigating to <https://www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2024-election-portal/>. Nationally elected positions require 250 signatures; RVCs need 100. It's

often a challenge to overcome that threshold, so your participation in the process is most welcome.

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: Daniel Sokatch

Title: *Can We Talk About Israel? A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted*

Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing

Year: 2021

Has Been Read by: Margy Lancet Fletcher

Book Description: Back in 1967, Canadian singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell lyrically lamented the futility of looking at both sides of an issue to gain understanding thereof ("It's life's illusions I recall. / I really don't know life at all."). That same year, animosity between Arabs and Israelis flared up (again) in the form of the infamous Six-Day War (a.k.a. An-Naksah, or The Setback, to the Arabs). Today, with Palestinian Muslims and Israeli Jews still bent on destroying each other over a piece of land smaller than most U. S. states, American journalist / political activist Daniel Sokatch contends that, not only is understanding both viewpoints in this seemingly eternal struggle possible, it is an absolute imperative if we wish to entertain a glimmer of hope for world peace. To achieve this goal, Sokatch offers his quintessential textbook on Arab/Israeli relationships, *Can We Talk About Israel?*

A product of his life experiences as a social worker, CEO and founder of consulting and outreach organizations, and visiting faculty member, as well as his prodigious research, both institutional and in the field (including education at a rabbinical school in Jerusalem), Sokatch's book is an intensive history lesson (Part One: "What's Going On?"), an examination of the root causes and misconceptions underlying the political / religious schism endemic to this Middle East region (Part Two: "Why Is It So Hard to Talk About Israel?"), and a source of suggestions for conflict resolution (the final chapter, "A Case for Hope," which contains autobiographical sketches of three civilian social justice crusaders: Maisam Jaljuli, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, feminist, and social and political activist; Mutasim Ali, a Sudanese political asylum seeker to Israel, immigrant rights activist, lawyer, and refugee; and Gadi Gvanyahu, a Jewish Israeli and religiously observant human rights activist). Readers who remain perplexed and overwhelmed by Israel's tumultuous timeline of conflagrations and regime changes can consult the appended "Lexicon of the Conflict" for further clarification.

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

As I write this review, I am cognizant of the fact that, in spite of my advanced age and the attendant physiological woes, I am infinitely fortunate to be able to pursue my projects in a peaceful atmosphere, free of the extreme violence and oppression that both Israeli Jews and Palestinian Muslims have constantly endured for centuries. Through this modest volume, Daniel Sokatch has gifted me - a reader with scant knowledge of the true situation in Israel - with a wealth of information, and a lesson on educating oneself before taking sides in any disagreement.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? The Middle East remains a hot topic (in more ways than one), and will for the foreseeable future. Daniel Sokatch's writing will enable any reader with at least a high-school education to hold one's own in a discussion of this contentious issue.

How long might it take to read this book? The author's lively and candid prose, laced with ironic humor, provides the proverbial sugar that helps the bitter medicine of the grim subject matter go down relatively smoothly. Absorption and processing should consume a maximum of three days.

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

...I believe that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is, essentially, a struggle between what the historian Benny Morris has called "righteous victims": two peoples, both with legitimate connections and claims to the land, who have been victimized by the outside world, each other, and themselves. It is a conflict about land and also about memory and legitimacy; about the right to exist and also about the right to self determination. It is about survival and about justice. It is about competing narratives understood by their adherents to be singularly "true." These narratives are fueled not only by lived experiences, but also by stories and religious traditions and family and media consumption and political persuasions - and by various degrees of ignorance, willful or otherwise. I believe that the biggest obstacle to resolving the conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians is not a lack of political imagination, but a lack of political will.

To put it more simply: I believe that everyone, Israelis and Palestinians alike, should have their equal rights and security guaranteed. There are partisans of this conflict who think that only some people deserve those things, and I believe they are wrong.

The Next Pandemic

Robert Enteen , PhD.

Outbreaks and epidemics of highly virulent infectious diseases are occurring with notably increasing frequency, yet the world's defenses remain essentially as porous and insufficient as they were in 1919, when Covid emerged.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 2:30 PM PT

Please register early. We are limited to 100 seats for this presentation

Zoom will email the link to join this meeting:

<http://livepresentation.link/SignUp>

Look for a confirmation email from ZOOM; it will contain the link that you will need to join.

Have You Ever Dreamed of Mars?

Judy Unger



The fourth planet from the Sun has captivated humanity's imagination for centuries with its rusty red color, mysterious atmosphere, and potential for extraterrestrial life. From Edgar Rice Burroughs' fantastic tales of John Carter and Dejah Thoris to NASA's Mars missions, our understanding of the Red Planet has evolved and expanded over time.

Burroughs' books introduced readers to a fictional world of Martian civilizations, canals, and creatures. While the science in these stories is fiction, they ignited a fascination with Mars that endures to this day.

As technology advanced, scientists began to study Mars more closely. NASA's Mars missions, such as the Mars Pathfinder and Mars Exploration Rovers, revealed a lot about the planet's geology, atmosphere, and history. Through these missions, we learned that Mars once had flowing water on its surface, which means there may have been conditions that could have supported life.

Today, NASA's Mars project continues to explore the planet with the Perseverance rover, which will search for signs of ancient microbial life and collect samples for future return to Earth. The High Arctic Mars Project is located on Devon Island, a mountainous, Mars-like Arctic island spanning 21,331 sq. mi. which features a 6,300-ft. ice cap; and Haughton Crater, a 20 km diameter meteorite impact crater. It will investigate what will be necessary to have a viable colony on Mars.

Our understanding of Mars has come a long way since Burroughs, but for many of us the allure of the Red Planet remains just as strong as when we first read those romantic stories.

The painting at the start of this article was created by Pascal Lee, the director and co-founder of the NASA Haughton-Mars Project. Dr. Lee will be talking about international efforts to land humans on Mars at SFRMs January Speaker Presentation. You can register for the Zoom event at

<http://livepresentation.link/SignUp>

This presentation allows only 100 seats, so register early!

A New Season of Theodore Talks Begins

Brad Lucht

Last year 1,282 Mensans registered for a Theodore Talk from 114 chapters and 47 different states (no one registered from Maine, Rhode Island or Vermont). In addition, we had people register from England, France and Ireland.

To promote the 2024 AG the first six talks this year will highlight some of Kansas City's unique attractions.

The title of the January Theodore Talk is, "**Kansas City BBQ**". This virtual event will take place on Zoom January 28 at 2:30 p.m. Central Time (3:30 Eastern, 12:30 Pacific, 8:30 GMT).

ABSTRACT: Are you attending the AG in Kansas City this year? Once you're in town you are going to want to eat some BBQ. But where should you go? And what should you eat?

Better get schooled first, because there are over 100 places to eat BBQ in Kansas City. Most are joints, but there are a few restaurants (they have tablecloths!) and at least one has a classically trained chef.

We're talking burnt ends, brisket, ribs, pulled pork, sausage, chicken, turkey. Oh mama!

And the sides! You haven't lived until you've had some cheesy corn or BBQ baked beans with burnt ends. Plus potato salad, coleslaw, mac 'n cheese, seasoned fries, sweet potato fries and my favorite, jumbo onion rings.

Guiding you on this BBQ journey is Jill Wendholt Silva, Kansas City's James Beard award-winning food editor and writer. She will discuss the history of BBQ in Kansas City, the different styles of BBQ (wait, what, there are different styles?), and maybe, just maybe, we'll discuss some of the best places in town to chow down. But bring your napkins, because it is going to get messy!

Register for this presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/5t4mk2mt>.

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>.

Even if you can't attend the live Theodore Talk, as long as you register in advance you will receive a link to the Zoom recording of the event. All Theodore Talks have Closed Captioning enabled.

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*.

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

Thank you for your support of the Theodore Talk lecture series.

In Case You Missed It

Holiday Party



[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, November 21, 2023.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

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

Guests: Teresa Gregory, Jon Applegate, Rich Gibson

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

The committee reviewed the October 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 10/30/23 from American Mensa: 455 members, 2 new, 0 move-in, 6 rejoin, 3 move-outs, and 4 prospects.

Old Business

RG: Teresa reported on plans for the 2024 RG. After posting on Hotels.com, she only received 2 responses. One facility wants \$153 per room per night and \$1,000 for 3 days of space usage. There's a "no alcohol" policy and Ms have to be out of the meeting room by 10 p.m. nightly. Availability is the third weekend in January. Based on room cost, it's not likely that many Ms will attend. Teresa learned that "quiet time" posed a problem due to the rooms being located around event rooms and concerns over too much noise to other residents. At this time of year, we're also competing for room availability with traveling sports teams. Also, the third week in January 2024 bumps up against other area RGs; therefore, discussion came up about the 2025 RG instead.

The ExCom discussed the possibility of a suburban hotel being an option, such as Franklin, Plainfield, or Noblesville. Historically, in the past, when this was done, lots of revenue was lost; i.e., when the RG was held in Richmond.

Kurt moved to postpone the RG in 2024 with a date later to be determined. Ann seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business

The Holiday Party is set for December 8. Due to the success of serving deli turkey and roast beef last year, CIM will provide meat, bread, beverages, plates, and plasticware. The pitch-in portion will be based on first letter of the last name and this will determine what kind of side dish to bring. Alan Schmidt agreed to

be the Gift Exchange Elf Again. Will eat at 7:30 p.m. It's important to RSVP to plan enough for all.

The MIND subscription fee of \$1/month is currently being charged to non-members. Judd Horning is paid through 2024. CIM will honor this subscription fee going forward.

Mensa Connect helped Jan brainstorm ways to attract/increase attendance/participation at monthly meetings. One consideration was a bi-monthly speaker. A benefit would be that it allows more time to promote upcoming speakers. The bi-monthly meeting speaker could start in February 2024. Another benefit is possibility drawing more attendance by having daytime weekend meetings. Another suggestion would be to have a program on the Eclipse in March. During alternative months to speaker meetings, a learning exercise could be implemented. Such an exercise could include activities and conversation, allowing for more time to promote such events. Another possibility is starting the meeting earlier. Members could be surveyed re their preference of the weekend day and time. Ann will compile a brief survey to determine interest and Ms' willingness to participate. Overall, what will it take to increase attendance, including preferred time to meet, day of the week, formal program, informal socializing, other? Any additional feedback/suggestions are welcome. Members will be asked to rank their top 3 options, including specific topics. Such inquiries could be sent 3 months, respectively. Then, based on the first response, use the second round of responses to delve deeper into a topic; for example, "If we have questions, may we contact you?" There being no other business, Kurt moved to adjourn the meeting. Paula seconded. The motion unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Wilczewski, Secretary

Solutions to January Puzzle:

1. redirection of a light wave (10) = REFRACTION
2. pre-birth occurrence (11) = CONTRACTION
3. payment of maximum attention (13) = CONCENTRATION
4. An ion consisting of elements # 6 and 8 (9) = CARBONATE
5. A popular Ocean Spray ingredient (9) = CRANBERRY
6. Violation of allegiance (9) = TREACHERY
7. Withdrawal of a statement or undertaking (10) = RETRACTION
8. The use of trickery (9) = CHICANERY
9. Sustained decline in value of a market index (10) = CORRECTION
10. Put in the pokey (11) = INCARCERATE

Treasurer's Report

Kurt Williams

Balance Sheet (as of 11/30/2023)

Bank Accounts	10/31/2023	11/30/2023
Checking – Regular	\$ 2,229.78	\$ 2,692.67
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	\$ 15,482.55
Unrealized accrued interest on CD	268.83	310.61
Other Assets		
USPS Stamps Value	\$ 341.00	\$ 341.00
Total Number of USPS Stamps	620	620

Profit & Loss Statement (10/31/2023 – 11/30/2023)

Income		
	Monthly Gathering Income	\$ 35.00
	National Support	387.60
	Testing Support	85.00
	New Member/Lapsed Member	8.00
Total Income		\$ 515.60
Expense		
	MG Hospitality	\$ 6.16
	MIND Printing	354.69
	Facility Rental (All Souls)	100.00
Total Expenses		\$ 460.85

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

