

Sunflower Seeds



Annual X-mas Party



**HYPNOTOAD BIDS YOU TO COME
TO THE X-MAS PARTY!**

GORDON BAKKEN'S HOUSE

4323 E DOUGLAS

SECOND SATURDAY,

DECEMBER 9TH

DECEMBER 2017

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
SUNFLOWER CHAPTER OF AMERICAN
MENSA, WICHITA, KANSAS

ISSUE 44, #12

Officers:

President: Larry Paarmann, 316-209-3752,
ldpaarmann@cox.net

Vice President: Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330,
grandledge@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Diane Powell, 316-617-8423

Program Chair: Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330,
grandledge@hotmail.com

Publications Chair: Gordon Bakken, 316-
687-9402, g-j-b@usa.net

Editor: Klaus Trenary, 316-682-5206,
shamanklaus@sbcglobal.net

Recruitment, Testing Chair & Proctor: Dan
Gollub, 316-322-3087, dangollub@aol.com

Assoc. Proctor and Member at Large:
Position Currently Open -

Ombudsman: Mike Dickson, 316-651-4707

Region 7 Vice Chair: Rich Olcott,
720-390-7889, rolcott@mindspring.com

American Mensa Ltd.: 888-294-8035



MEETINGS



Monthly Pig Out

Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 12:45pm

Gangnam Korean

1st & Washington, Wichita



Annual X-mas Party

Saturday, Dec. 9th, 2:00pm

4323 E Douglas

Gordon Bakken's House

Be there, or be square!

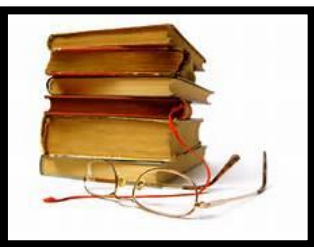


Food for Thought

Saturday, Dec. 16th, 11:00am

Watermark Books – BSMNT

4701 E Douglas, Wichita



Banter and Books

Saturday, Dec. 23rd, 7:00pm

Barnes and Noble Books

1920 N Rock RD, Wichita

Last Month's Speaker:

Saturday, November 11th, 2:00pm.
Downstairs at Watermark Books.

Dave Hodgson gave a presentation called: "What's really known about the Bender Family."

The Benders owned an Inn located in Southeast Kansas during the 1870's. They are alleged to have robbed and murdered a dozen or more people.

The interesting part is that they disappeared before being arrested and were never seen again.

The chapter has in its possession a copy of the true to life movie, shot in Kansas, about the infamous family. It's free for any Mensan to watch. Contact Gordon.

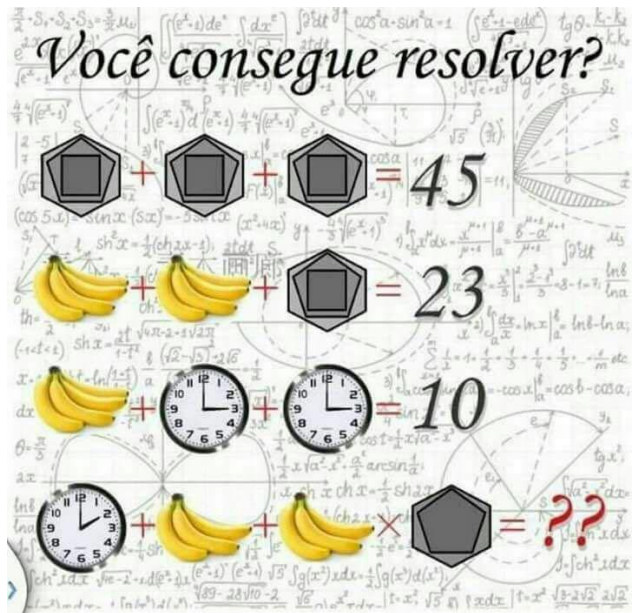
**This Month's 5th
Saturday, will as usual,
meet in the upstairs
dining hall at the
Wichita Art Museum.**

December 30, 12:45pm

Happy Birthdays this Month:

Brent Spencer – 2nd, Herbert Brockmeier – 7th,
Gordon Bakken – 11th, Thomas Baalman – 27th

Mind Games:



A fellow Mensan sent this to me, and between three of us, there were at least five different answers tendered.

Can you figure out which number is represented by the final geometric figure?

Hint: The obvious may not always be the correct answer.

Some jokes submitted by Mike Dickson:

- 1) What did the pirate say when he turned 80? Aye, matey, & it sucks!
- 2) What's a foot long & slippery? A slipper...
- 3) Why don't blind people skydive? It scares the hell out of their dogs!
- 4) And God said to John: Come forth & you shall be granted eternal life. But John came 5th, & only won a toaster...
- 5) I bought the world's worst thesaurus yesterday. Not only is it terrible, it's also terrible!
- 6) I have the heart of a lion & a lifetime ban from the Toronto zoo...
- 7) Why do you never see elephants hiding in trees? They're very good at it!
- 8) What did they give the guy who invented the door knocker? The no bell prize!
- 9) A blind man walks into a bar. A table. A chair...
- 10) A termite walks into a bar & asks: Is the bar tender here?





Heartland Mensa Region 7



News Brief by: Rich Olcott

Hi, folks. Welcome to December, the season of gifting and being gifted.

Speaking of being gifted (see what I did there?), here's another reason to be proud of being a Mensan – our charitable arm, the Mensa Education and Research Foundation (MERF). There's a lot more there than just the scholarship program.

MERF's slogan is, "Advocate for Intelligence." (You can watch a nice video with that title at MensaFoundation.org/about-the-mensa-foundation/). The Foundation can't lobby in the halls of Congress (their 501(c)(3) designation forbids it). However...

- In partnership with the Library of Congress, MERF sponsors a whole collection of programs and publications to challenge and educate smart kids. If you've got a 6-10-year-old nearby, go to MensaForKids.org and subscribe to *Bright*, a two page e-magazine loaded with puzzles. If the kid's a little older, there's *YM²* e-magazine, written in part by Young Mensans and downloadable from us.mensa.org.
- To help teachers cope with their brightest students, MERF offers more than two dozen lesson plans at various levels (downloadable from MensaForKids.org/teach/lesson-plans/)
- MERF sponsors eight national and international awards that are presented in recognition of excellence in teaching, research, and creative achievement.
- MERF publishes the award-winning *Mensa Research Journal*, devoted to scientific investigation of intelligence.
- In conjunction with the AG, MERF presents *Colloquium*, a full-day themed series of thought-provoking talks by leaders in their fields.
- And, of course, there are MERF's national and international scholarship programs. (By the way, proceeds from *Colloquium* registration fees go to that scholarship fund.)

Finally, here's something to consider in your end-of-year tax planning – MERF's status as an IRS-approved charity means that if you've got a few dollars left over after that gifting, you can donate them to MERF and deduct them from your taxable income (good ol' 1040 Schedule A).

See y'all next year.

- Rich



December trivia:

Birthstone: Turquoise

Flower: Paper White Narcissus, Holly or Poinsettia

Zodiac signs: Sagittarius: Nov. 22 – Dec. 21, Capricorn: Dec. 22 – Jan. 19

History: The Winter Solstice, also known as Midwinter, occurs around December 21 or 22 each year in the Northern hemisphere, and June 20 or 21 in the Southern Hemisphere. It occurs on the shortest day or longest night of the year, sometimes said to astronomically mark the beginning or middle of a hemisphere's winter.

The word solstice derives from Latin, Winter Solstice meaning Sun set still in winter. Worldwide, interpretation of the event varies from culture to culture, but most hold a recognition of rebirth, involving festivals, gatherings, rituals or other celebrations. Many cultures celebrate or celebrated a holiday near the winter solstice; examples of these include Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Years, Pongal, Yalda and many other festivals of light.

The solstice itself may have remained a special moment of the annual cycle of the year since neolithic times. This is attested by physical remains in the layouts of late Neolithic and Bronze Age archeological sites like Stonehenge and New Grange in the British Isles. The primary axes of both of these monuments seem to have been carefully aligned on a sight-line framing the winter solstice sunrise (New Grange) and the winter solstice sunset (Stonehenge). The winter solstice may have been immensely important because communities were not assured to live through the winter, and had to be prepared during the previous nine months.

Starvation was common in winter between January to April, also known as the famine months. In temperate climates, the midwinter festival was the last feast celebration, before deep winter began. Most cattle were slaughtered so they would not have to be fed during the winter, so it was nearly the only time of year when a supply of fresh meat was available. The majority of wine and beer made during the year was finally fermented and ready for drinking at this time. The concentration of the observances were not always on the day commencing at midnight or at dawn, but the beginning of the pre-Romanized day, which falls on the previous eve. - Wikipedia

Newsworthy: ANNUAL AUDIT: “Yes, you are right about the audit - as soon as I finish the 4th quarter report [Oct/Nov/Dec], I would be ready to prepare the audit and pass it to John Prechtel, who hopefully, will help us again as he did last year.” - Diane

Editorial: This month I would like to propose that all members in general, and the executive committee in particular, to give some renewed thought into how we can increase member turnout for events, and how we can increase positive community awareness of our group. In other words, I would like to suggest that we begin doing some sort of annual public-service event, preferably where some positive media attention would be involved. Secondly, maybe some sort of semi-regular field trip to an interesting out of town museum or historical site, sponsored and paid for by the club. Sitting around talking is great, and the Art Museum is cool, but let's do more activities that are fun and stimulating, once and a while. – Klaus Trenary

Book Review: The book *Irish of Mulberry Hill* by our recent member, Lucille Campbell, is a novel and entertaining read. It is clearly a children's book. 140 pages long, it would probably need to be read to younger children. The talking barnyard animals are entertaining, creative, and in some cases - wise. It can be ordered from Amazon, or at other book stores, for about \$17.00. - Gordon Bakken

Welcome to the December, 2017, issue of Sunflower SEEDS, the official publication of the Kansas Sunflower local group of American Mensa. Please read the issue and let us know what you think.

We are an active Local Group, having regularly scheduled meetings every Saturday. Our Local Group covers a large geographical area, a large part of Kansas, and that means that many of you live too far away from Wichita, where a large number of our members live, for it to be practical for you to join in with our many meetings. We regret that, and if you have any suggestions as to how we may get more of you involved, please let us know by contacting any of our Local Group officers listed elsewhere in this issue of SEEDS.

But for those of you are able to attend, let me highlight our upcoming meetings for the month of December. One of my favorite meetings is our monthly *Pig Out SIG* meeting, the first Saturday of every month. This month, on the 2nd, we will meet at 12:45 PM at the GangNam Korean Grill. I've never been there, but I am very much looking forward to it. I have been to another Korean restaurant here in town, which is quite good but smaller. This should be good!

On the second Saturday of December, the 9th, we will have our annual Christmas party. We will be meeting at Gordon and Linda Bakken's home, beginning at 2:00 PM, taking the place of our usual monthly Program Meeting. This is a great time of conversation and eating! It is also a great time for first-time visitors since it is an especially relaxed and informal get-together. We will be showing, for those interested, the movie *Bender*, which is about the serial killer Bender family of Kansas in the 1870s. You may recall that our November Program Meeting was a presentation on the Bloody Benders.

On Saturday the 16th we will have our monthly *Food for Thought* meeting, and on the 25th we will have our monthly *Banter and Books* meeting. Both of these meetings are informal and are primarily for conversation.

Another of my favorites is what some of us call the *Blue Moon SIG*, which occurs only when we have a fifth Saturday in the month, and in December we do have a fifth Saturday. The *Blue Moon SIG* meets at the *Wichita Art Museum*, which has free admission on Saturdays, thanks to Colby Sandlian, Sandlian Realty (admission during the week and on Sundays is \$7.00 for adults). We meet at the *Muse Café* inside of the *Wichita Art Museum*, which is a very nice café, very modern, a great glass window (almost a glass wall) overlooking the museum grounds, and has maybe a somewhat limited menu, but excellent entrées. After we eat, for those interested, some will go on a walking tour of the museum, often focusing on those exhibits that are temporary. For example, on display from November 11, 2017 through March 4, 2018, is a display of surveillance photographs from the 1860s through today.

A list of the December meetings is given elsewhere in this issue of SEEDS with details. Also, note that our web site at <http://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org> is also a convenient reference for our meeting details. We hope to see some of you as visitors at any of these meetings soon.

Larry D. Paarmann, Loc. Sec

