

Sunflower Seeds



DECEMBER

2018

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

VOLUME 45, NO. 12

Officers for 2018:

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,
cdkpowell@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Recruit & Test: Dan Gollub, 316-322-3087,
dangollub@aol.com

Associate Proctor: Position OPEN -

Member at Large: Position OPEN -

Ombudsman: Mike Dickson, 316-651-4707,
mdawgplmb@yahoo.com

Region – 7 VC: Rich Olcott, 720-390-7889,
rolcott@mindspring.com

American Mensa Ltd.:

1-888-294-8035

Chapter's Official Web Sites:

<https://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460/>

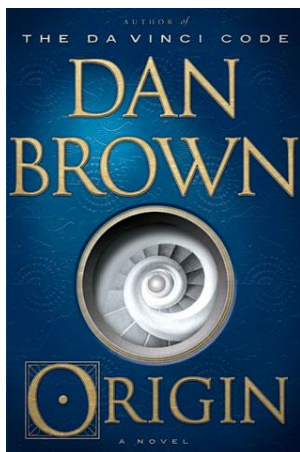
THIS MONTH'S SATURDAY EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
DEC 1ST	MONTHLY PIG OUT	USULUTECO RESTAURANT 2265 S SENECA (316) 409-3820	12:45 PM
8TH	ANNUAL X-MAS PARTY	HOSTED BY: GAIL & KLAUS TRENARY 4613 E NORWOOD CT (316) 682-5206	1:00 PM
15TH	FOOD FOR THOUGHT	WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT 4701 E DOUGLAS HTTP://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM	11:00 AM
22ND	BANTER AND BOOKS	BARNES & NOBELS, EATING AREA 1920 N ROCK RD HTTP://STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/STORE/2319	7:00 PM
29TH	BLUE MOON CELEBRATION	WICHITA ART MUSEUM, 2 ND FLOOR RESTAURANT 1400 W MUSEUM BLVD HTTP://WICHITAARTMUSEUM.ORG	12:45 PM

Advertise here:

The Seeds will be accepting advertising in future issues to help offset the costs of production. The price will be \$15/quarter page, \$25/half page, \$40/full page, four color. This includes free lay-up and production if needed. The circulation is roughly 120 members via either print and/or electronically. Contact Klaus or Gordon for more information. We hope that depending on the quality of future submissions, subscriptions will be offered to non-members, rates to be \$18 per year for 12 issues.

November's Guest Speaker: Our own Larry Paarmann.



For our November Program Meeting, Larry D. Paarmann, our own LocSec, gave a review with a little bit of analysis of Dan Brown's most recent novel, *Origin*. Brown is one of the most successful authors alive today, having written a number of very popular novels, including *The Da Vinci Code*, *Angels & Demons*, and *Inferno*, all three of which have been made into popular movies. In *Origin*, Edmond Kirsch, the world's greatest authority on Artificial Intelligence (AI), is assassinated while in the middle of revealing to a world-wide audience his recent findings about the future of mankind. Eventually, Kirsch's message is transmitted around the world, and it has to do with the growth of AI until it absorbs humanity and becomes the new dominant species on earth.

Slides of the presentation are now available on-line.

<http://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org>

December is the time for the annual X-mas get together.

This year the get together will be at a new location. Begins Saturday December 8th, 1PM – until the cows come home. My wife and myself will be having Sunflower Mensans and guests over for munchies and conversation. Bring a covered dish if you are so inclined, but do not fret if you don't. Please no gift exchange. There will be an emphasis on what would be considered German foods and desserts, but some more familiar fare will be extant as well. Located at 4613 E Norwood CT, it is almost right across the street from the Chisholm Creek Park entrance. Very easy to find, just south of K96 on North Oliver. Hope to see everyone there!



Klaus

LocSec Korner

As you know, Kansas Sunflower Mensa (KSM) has a number of appointment positions that need to be filled, and we hope to do that during our ExCom Meeting in January. Three of those appointed positions will also serve on the ExCom, and we also have a few other positions to fill. Some of these appointed positions are filled currently, and in the past also by people that already hold an elected position. We would like to spread the opportunity to serve a little more broadly. So, look at the ExCom Meeting announcement in this issue of SEEDS, and see if there is an appointed position that you may be eager to serve in.

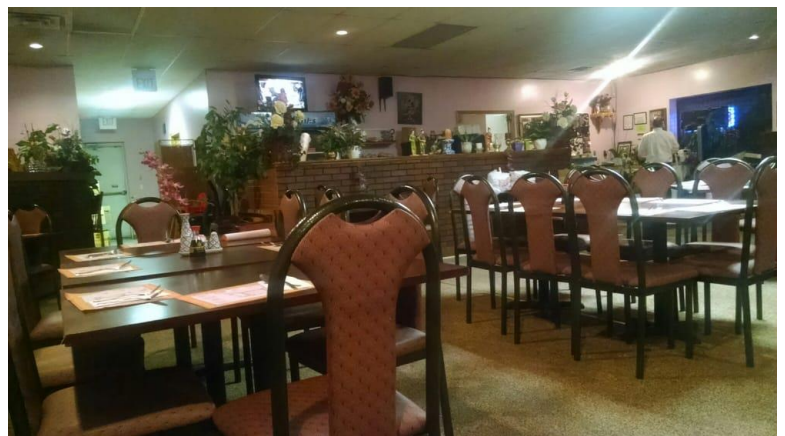
It seems that food tends to draw our KSM local group together. In December we have no less than three (more if you count *Food for Thought*, and *Banter and Books*) events that focus on food. One is our monthly Pig Out, which will be at Restaurante Usuluteco (Salvadoran), 2265 S. Seneca St., Wichita. This looks really interesting to me, and I'm looking forward to it. Our Pig Our SIG Coordinator always has his eagle eye peeled for interesting places. Another one will be at our Blue Moon SIG at the Muse Café in the Wichita Art Museum on December 29th. And last but not least is our annual Christmas Party, which will be on Saturday, December 8th. See the article elsewhere in this Newsletter for more information about the party.

Larry D. Paarmann

Pig Out



Our Pig Out location for November was Chiang Mai Thai Restaurant, 3141 S. Hillside St., Wichita. Chiang Mai is one of those great finds among restaurants in Wichita. A little out-of-the-way, so maybe not as well-known as it could be, but an excellent Thai restaurant, perhaps the best in Wichita. And, on top of that, the prices are very reasonable. It's a nice place, with great food.



ExCom Meeting in January

There will be an Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, January 12, 2019, immediately after the Program Meeting on that day is over (about 3:30 PM or so). Reminder: although only those who are members of the Executive Committee are allowed to vote, all members are welcome to attend and join in on the discussion. Below is an agenda:

- (1) What documents should we post on our web site?
- (2) Civility in our meetings.
- (3) Appointment of Program Chairman, Recruitment and Testing Chairman, and Publications Officer. These three will serve on the ExCom in addition to the elected positions.
- (4) Appointment of SEEDS Editor, Testing Coordinator, Proctor, Associate Proctor, Local Scholarship Chair, Web Contact, and Ombudsman.
- (5) As may arise.

Election Report

Kansas Sunflower Mensa Nominating and Election Committees announce that there have been no additional nominations from the public to the positions subject to the current election. As a result, the candidates proposed by Nominating Committee are the only ones nominated, and they are declared elected without balloting:

Larry Paarmann, Local Secretary; Bill Barnett, Deputy Local Secretary; Diane Powell, Treasurer;

Ron a/k/a Ronnie Lee, Member at Large;

Per Kansas Sunflower Mensa Bylaws, Article V, Paragraph 4.

Igor Ponomarev

Election & Nominating Committees

GENIUSES ONLY
Look Closely at the Details
Puzzle #13 - Arithmetic Puzzle
Answer @ FactRepublic.com

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Wheel} + \text{Wheel} + \text{Wheel} &= 18 \\ \text{Wheel} + \text{Tree} + \text{Tree} &= 26 \\ \text{Clover} + \text{Wheel} + \text{Tree} &= 20 \\ \text{Wheel} - \text{Clover} \times \text{Tree} + \text{Tree} &= ? \end{aligned}$$

Maybe this isn't that difficult, but it does have Christmas trees!



A couple of Fall scenes from around our great state. A lot of beauty if one is open to seeing it.

The first is a riverbank on the eastern side of the lower Walnut river, outside of Arkansas City. This would have been roughly the middle of the Great Settlement of Etzanoa, at the time of first recorded European contact.

The next picture is along the Chisolm creek, at a spot that would have been crossed by the cattle drives of the Chisolm trail of the cowboy days.



Heartland Mensa Region 7



RVC Rich Olcott

Ah, December, all that election to-do is done with and we can get on with being sane and having a life. Well, except for in Mensa. Many of our Local Groups have **Nomination Committees** now seeking candidates for next year's officer positions. If they come to you, please say, "Yes." The more you put into Mensa, the more you'll get out of it – fun, growth, and the satisfaction of a job well done.

American Mensa is looking for candidates, too, but there's no NomComm. Instead we now use the petition system. Any member of American Mensa can apply to be a candidate for any of the elective positions. If you've got Internet connectivity, the good news is that the **2019 petition and election process** has been moved online. If you don't have access to the Internet, that's also the bad news – you can obtain paper copies from the National Office but. The whole procedure is laid out online at us.mensa.org/lead/amc/elections/2019-board-election/. Links to the forms are there, too, and they can be filled in and returned electronically.

Except for the **Candidate Signatures Petition** form. People actually have to put ink to paper for that one – 100 signatures if you're running for RVC, 250 if you're running for any of the other offices. But even the petitions can be downloaded, signed, scanned and uploaded, or mailed in if that's what works better for you.

Start with the **Candidate Checklist**, a nicely constructed step-by-step roadmap that tells you what needs to be done by when. I'll be happy to answer any questions you might have and give you whatever help you need along the way, especially if you're in a paper-only situation. Heck, I'll even sign your petition – Greg and I each signed the other's when we ran against each other two years ago.

Quick report on the **October AMC tele-meeting**. Discussion was spirited but civil as we worked through several issues. Your 2019 ballot will include several proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Probably the most important was produced by the Event Safety Task Force. It clarifies what had been an ambiguous and clunky process to address problems created by Mensans who don't behave well. Consider it closely when you vote (online or on paper) in April.

And have a great holiday season before we hunker down for Winter.

~~ Rich



Letters, Stories, Travel Misadventures and More! Isolated M SIG monthly newsletter serves as a communication forum for Mensa members around the world - currently 80 countries. Electronic issues free! Visit IsolatedM.com for more information.

A guy goes into the dentist's office because something is wrong with his mouth. After a brief exam, the dentist exclaims: "Holy smokes, that plate I installed in your mouth about 6 months ago is complexly corroded! What have you been eating?" Well... the only thing I can think of is this... my wife made me some asparagus about 4 months ago with this stuff on it... Hollandaise sauce she called it... and doc, I'm talking delicious. I've never tasted anything like it, and ever since I've been putting it on everything... meat, fish, toast, vegetables... you name it." "That's probably it," replied the dentist. "Hollandaise sauce is made from lemon juice, which is acidic and highly corrosive. It seems as though I'll have to install a new plate, but made of chrome this time." "Why chrome?" the man asked. "Well, everybody knows that there's no plate like chrome on the Hollandaise."

Mike Dickson submits even more interesting fun facts.

- 1) In Canada, it is illegal to pretend to practice witchcraft, although it is completely legal to actually practice it.
- 2) It is illegal under German law to deny the holocaust, punishable by up to 5 years in prison.
- 3) In the state of Wisconsin, it is legally permitted to drink at any age, so long as a parent or legal guardian is supervising.
- 4) In China, prior government approval is required of anyone seeking reincarnation.
- 5) In Switzerland, it is against the law to own solitary guinea pigs. They are considered to be social creatures prone to loneliness.
- 6) Rabbits have become such a problem in Queensland Australia, that it is a punishable offense to own a rabbit unless you are a registered magician.
- 7) It is almost universally illegal to advertise pharmaceuticals anywhere on Earth. Except of course for New Zealand and the U.S.
- 8) Unless you are a handicapped resident of Michigan having only one arm, it is illegal to possess a switchblade or automatic knife.
- 9) In Fairbanks Alaska, there is a city ordinance against any moose that might use a sidewalk to enter a saloon. The law was enacted because a local tavern owner had a pet moose, who when drunk, would rampage around town in a rage.
- 10) British eggs are illegal to import into this country, under the pretense of being unwashed. Playing tit for tat, American eggs are barred from entering Britain because they are washed.
- 11) Until repealed in 1976, there was a law on the books that allowed Mormons to be killed in Missouri.
- 12) Incest between consenting adults is completely legal in New Jersey.
- 13) In Alabama it is against the law to wear a fake mustache into church with the intent on provoking laughter.
- 14) It is considered illegal to name your pig Napoleon in France.
- 15) In the town of Bracebridge, Ontario, "hooting and hollering" at any hour was punishable by fine, until 1976. Such acts were made legal if performed between the hours of 7AM to 11PM.
- 16) In Idaho, it is legal for cyclists to treat red lights and stop signs as if they were simply yield signs. This law is commonly referred to as the "Idaho stop," and has not been adopted by any other state.
- 17) In Mexico, escaping from jail is considered legal and not a punishable offense. They feel that freedom is a basic human need, and that escaping is a fundamental response.

*"Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself;
but talent instantly recognizes genius."*

Athur Conan Doyle

*"I was walking among the fires of Hell,
delighting with the enjoyment of genius;
which to Angels look like torment and
insanity." William Blake*

*"The only genius produced by the chaos of
society are those who do something about it.
Chaos breeds geniuses. It offers a man
something to be genius about." B. F. Skinner*

*"Genius is the ability to independently arrive
at and understand concepts that would
normally have to be taught by another
person." Immanuel Kant*



Blessed nothingness.

A floating grey haze, that fuzzy, foggy timeless place with no form or dimensions. Strangely, somehow a bit familiar. Very odd. The sensation of being cradled in the arms of eternity. A state of being that has existed since the dawn of time, it always was and always has been. The sort of feeling not warm and reassuring like a mother lovingly caressing her baby, nor cold like the enmity of the stranger. That would imply judgement and subjectivity. It cannot be analyzed, described or labeled, it is a feeling that simply is.

Suddenly a vague inkling intrudes upon the solace of eternity. You realize that you exist. Nothing concrete mind you, simply a sort of understanding without actually knowing. An ephemeral abstract grasp of the fact that there is more than just nothingness, and that you are somehow something. No frame of reference, no past experiences to hone your perceptions and expectations. No past, no present, no concept of future. Just an indescribable sense that there is something. In this place that I now find myself, it is enough to simply be.

How can a thought exist without being first manifest by some sort of entity? An epiphany of sorts, I think therefore I am. I must be something, because a thought cannot engender its own existence. It requires a container, a creator. This was the first hint that there may be something more than this singular reality that I am emerging from. I would posit that it should be quite disconcerting to me that a creature capable of thought should have no clue what it is. Thought after all implies intelligence, and intelligence implies a source. Unfortunately, rationalization does not as of yet exist. I simply accept the apparent fact that I am.

Yes, I am definitely certain that there is something more than this place. I become faintly aware of my breath and my heartbeat, the blood coursing through my veins. I am suddenly aware that I have life and that I do exist in some sort of corporeal state. I am alive, whatever that means. The extent of my grasp is now the most basic, reptilian state of understanding, but for now that is enough.

Gradually more complex perceptions begin to condense. Finally, something that can be quantified emerges from the mist of oblivion. An increasing flood of sensations swell to fill my existence. Arms, legs, head and torso. A form slowly emerges to enfold the raw thought. The impression solidifies that I have something called a body. Still an animal-like, inarticulate, preliterate state. Where there are simple emotions, feelings and instinctive desires to be acted on. Where actions are performed blindly and without analysis, a creature trapped in a reality it has no control over or no real comprehension of.

I exist, I am alive, I have a physical form, I am a human. My thoughts coalesce into understandable strings of meaning. Comprehension in a structured, linear, cohesive fashion begins to emerge. Words now usurp the raw emotions that so few minutes ago were the limit of my understanding. How profound a change in perception when one can possess ideations that use words as opposed to simple feelings. Still a state of being far removed from consensual reality. Much akin to what we all experience on waking. Those few seconds every morning when we are a blank slate, before the memories of who we were are forced into consciousness to make us who we are.

I can see. Before this instant my universe was a closed system that revolved around only thought. There was no outside, no reality other than what was conjured from within. This was the first concrete evidence that there was indeed something more. It was a plain of soothing green stretching out beneath my feet. I have always felt a great affinity towards plants, the givers of life. How appropriate that my first sight in this brave new universe that I was now discovering, would be grass.

Up to now there was no analysis, nor could there be judgement of my situation. It simply was what it was. Now I did have choice and opinion, the true freedom that intelligence imparts. I could have preferences, and steer my thoughts towards what was more pleasing as opposed to blind acceptance. I think I could learn to like this place. After all there was grass so it couldn't be all bad.

Awareness was building rapidly. Like a child learning to understand its world in seconds rather than decades. I could discern the shapes of bushes and trees. In the distance the unmistakable shape of a teepee now became clear. I became aware that I was walking, and had been for some distance. Odd that I had clearly been ambulating for at least a few minutes, but was cognizant of the fact for only the last few seconds. Moving my head to the side slightly, I discover that there is someone walking closely next to me, and in fact was helping me walk. Hmm, don't recognize this person and thought no more of it.

By this point my identity had largely returned, and I was certain of what and even who I was now. After what seemed like an eternity of dredging the depths of my mind for deeply obscured answers, I understood the where and the why. Space/time had successfully been folded, a new seeker had arrived.

Klaus R. Trenary



Mensan Owned and Operated

Blake Escritt - Independence, KS

- **Managed IT Services**
 - **Proactive Monitoring & Maintenance**
 - **Secure Remote Support**
 - **Instant Technician Engagement**
 - **Patch Compliance (Windows & Over 130 Apps)**
 - **Enterprise Antivirus & Backup Solutions**
 - **Easy Trouble Ticketing**

<https://www.IndyTechFix.com/managed-it-service>