

Sunflower Seeds



JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER
2018

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

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SATURDAY EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
JULY 7TH	PIG OUT	DOC GREENS 401 N HILLSIDE #1000	12:45 PM
14TH	STATED MEETING *GUEST SPEAKER	WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT	2:00 PM
21ST	FOOD FOR THOUGHT	WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT	11:00 AM
28TH	BANTER AND BOOKS	BARNES & NOBEL'S EATING AREA	7:00 PM

August 4th	Pig Out	Garby's 1713 W Douglas	12:45 pm
11th	Stated Meeting *Guest Speaker	Watermark Books, basement	2:00 pm
18th	Food for Thought	Watermark Books, basement	11:00 am
25th	Banter and Books	Barnes & Nobel's Restaurant	7:00 pm

September 1 st	Pig Out	Carlos O Kelleys 4872 S Broadway	12:45 pm
8 th	Stated Meeting *Guest Speaker	Watermark Books, basement	2:00 pm
15 th	Food for Thought	Watermark Books, basement	11:00 am
22nd	Banter and Books	Barnes & Nobel's Restaurant	7:00 pm
29th	Once in a Blue Moon Celebration	Wichita Art Museum Upstairs Dining Room	12:45 pm

Notice:

There will be a small adjustment in the way the Seeds is distributed from now on. Every Quarter, a normal sized publication will be mailed/put on-line, as is now being done. Beginning in August however, a post card will be mailed out on the two months between actual Seeds publication. These cards will be reminders of upcoming events, as well as any important notifications, announcements or changes. We will keep experimenting until we get a publication of interest and utility to our members. As always feedback is welcome and appreciated.

Klaus

Guest Speakers:



July 14th, 2:00. Klaus Trenary will be giving a presentation about the lifeways of pre-contact indigenous cultures that would later be called the Wichita, and the great city of Etzanoa. I am currently working on a book about this subject and hope to be able to present some interesting information.

The program meeting on August 11, 2018 will be by Lexi Inscho. She is a freshman in college on a running and academic scholarship. She plans to be a dermatologist. For her senior high school project, she wrote a book on dermatology. She will be speaking on dermatology.



2018 Mensa Foundation Scholarship Winner

The 2018 Mensa Foundation Scholarship winner is Erika Frisbie of Hutchinson. Her essay was awarded \$600.00 towards her higher education goals. She hopes to get a bachelor's degree in radiologic technology, specializing in radiography. Erika was inducted into the National Honor Society in 2017. She is a recent graduate of Trinity Catholic High School in Hutchinson.

Kansas Sunflower 2018 Elections

This is an election year for Kansas Sunflower Mensa. The following have been appointed by the Executive Committee to serve as the Nominating Committee: John Prechtel (fmsc914@hotmail.com), Igor Ponomarev (iponomarev@cox.net), and Susan Pung (suepng@sbcglobal.net). They will also serve as the Election Committee.

The following positions are open for nominations: Local Secretary (President), Assistant Local Secretary (Vice President), Treasurer, and Member at Large. Please submit your nominations prior to September 15th by contacting any of the above members of the Nominating Committee.

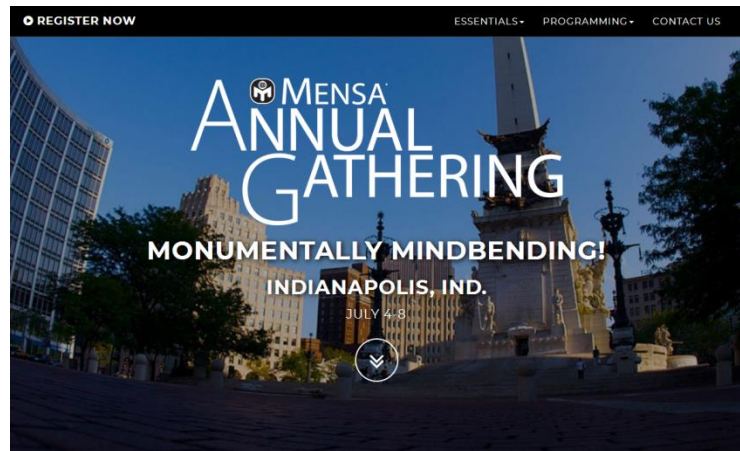
All Nominating Committee's nominations for the above positions will be announced in the October/November/December issue of SEEDS.

2018 Annual Gathering

The event of the year for Mensans in the USA is the Annual Gathering, or just simply AG. For a few days in early July each year, it is early morning to late night jam packed with activities and events. Although they always have optional activities off-sight, for those who want to tour local sights, in my experience, I seldom, if ever, leave the hotel for those days, there is so much going on. It is a highlight of my year, and I encourage all who can make it to give it consideration. The AG web site is as follows: <https://ag.us.mensa.org>

This year it is in Indianapolis, IN, July 4–8.

- Larry Paarman



A Message from Rich.

August, the perfect time for a picnic, under a shady tree, near the top of a hill with a cooling breeze. And ice cream on the way home.

Like many Mensans who could make it to Indianapolis over the July 4 week, I enjoyed American Mensa's own massive indoor picnic – **AG2018**, an intellectual fun-fest of seminars, discussion groups, games and whatever. If you joined Mensa in search of mental stimulation, this was the place to be. If you joined to make new friendships with intelligent people, this was the place to be. If you joined just seeking a group where you *belong*, this was the place to be. If you couldn't make it there, well, there's next year in Phoenix -- save the date, you'll find it's worth it.

But that's not the year's only Mensa picnic. Some of ours in the Heartland Region collided with each other. Both **Denver Mensa** and **Boulder/Front Range Mensa** had their annual picnic on the 16th of June, right on top of the western edition of our Regional Leadership Development Workshop. **Mid-America Mensa** had their picnic (and White Elephant Sale) on the 3rd of June. **Nebraska/Western Iowa Mensa** combines picnics with field trips – this year's was on the 9th of June when they visited (I kid you not) Squirrel Cage Jail. And **Plains&Peaks Mensa**, well, I don't know which to highlight because those folks go somewhere to eat practically every weekend.

One of my peak moments at the Fort Collins LDW was presenting RVC Service Award pins to three of our members who had stepped up to hard jobs. For quite a while now, **Paula Wilson-Caziér** has been Wyoming Mountain Mensa's Editor and do-everything person, including chivvying **Bess Carnahan** into volunteering to lead WMM when she moved back to Wyoming. Bess did that and has been a ball of fire for us ever since. Similarly, **Jim Stiles** hit the ground running for North Dakota Mensa when he became their LocSec. It was a privilege to set a well-deserved silver pin in front of each of them. Thanks, folks.

Categories of Knowledge

Gordon Bakken

Is evolution a theory of science? I say no. It is a theory of history. Do we put that theory in the wrong category? If so, how about other pieces of knowledge that we have? Do we categorize them correctly? What categories of knowledge are there? What belongs in each? I have created this list.

Geography (Current state of things)

Inanimate things (The stars, planets, rivers, and my shoes)

Living things (Biology)

Plants (How they function. This is not science), Animals (Same), Humans (Politics, Sociology, Psychology)

History (State of things at various times in the past)

Big bang, Origin of life, Wars, Yesterday's baseball game

Science (What could happen)

Physics, Electricity, Chemistry

Religion (Any activity of the gods)

Skills (How to modify things to our liking)

Business, Manufacturing, Government, Health care, Language, Logic, Math



Quite simply, any knowledge of how things are right now, including what we normally call “geography”, but also including things as trivial as how you are sitting at the moment, I call geography. How things were in the past, including what happened at the big bang, and how you were sitting a second ago, I call history.

The state of the planets, how many stars there are, and if the big bang occurred, and how our heart pumps blood, are not science. They are geography, or maybe history. Science is the “laws of nature”, i.e. what could happen. Those include gravity, how wood burns or that water will swirl when it drains.

There is one other big category of knowledge. That I call “skills”. It is a large part of what we try to learn in school, including in college. It is basically the knowledge of “how to”.

The remaining category is “religion.” That was a hard one to define. We call the creation story part of religion; also rules such as don't eat pork or don't steal. What do those issues have in common that would cause us to put them in the same category? The only thing I can see is that they are all attributed to God, or the gods. Thus, it seems that anything that God did, or commanded us to do, we put in the category of religion. Since common usage defines a word, I have accepted that, and call any actions by the gods as belonging in the category of religion.

Did I miss anything?

Games

A PROBABILITY TEASER

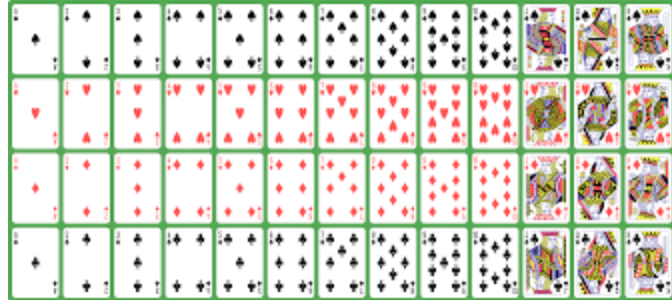
A player has an ordinary deck of 52 cards (obviously, with an equal number of black and red cards, verified by the player) placed face down. He is playing with the dealer the following game:

The dealer draws a card, one at a time, from the top of the deck and shows it to the player. Dealer keeps drawing, until player says "stop". At that time, the dealer draws one more card and shows it to everyone.

If it is red, player wins \$1.00. If it is black, player loses \$1.00.

Player can say "stop" at any time, even before the first card is drawn. If player never says "stop", the outcome will be based on the last card in the deck.

Is there a strategy player can use (based on counting already open cards or any other) that will improve his chances of winning on average, even just a little?



What is the best strategy which maximizes player's benefit?

When we say "on average", we mean that if we repeat that game over and over again a sufficiently large number of times with different randomly shuffled decks, but using the same selected strategy, we will eventually approach our average percentage of winning/losing games specific to that strategy.

Igor Ponomarev

The Askew View

A simple question this issue. Why is the utilization of mind altering botanicals ubiquitous among all known human cultures as well as many animal species?

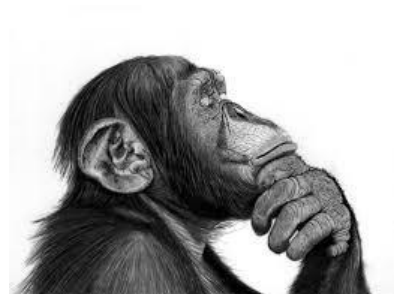


Figure 1: *Acorus calamus*



Figure 2: *Datura stramonium*

In keeping with our paranoid times:

Here are some declassified govt, items sure to make your teeth itch & your lobes scream WASSUP!!



1) In 1961, a B52 bomber went into a tailspin & broke up in midair, accidentally dropping 2 Mark 39 hydrogen bombs over Goldsboro, N. Carolina. One of the bombs worked exactly as intended. Its parachute deployed & its triggers activated, armed & ready to detonate on impact. 3 of the 4 safety switches failed & a single low voltage switch prevented 2 4 megaton nuclear explosions. A part of one of the bombs is still buried in a fenced off area in Goldsboro.

2) In 1966, 4 nuclear bombs were accidentally dropped on the fishing village of PALOMARES, SPAIN when a B52 bomber collided with its tanker plane while refueling in midair. Thankfully, none of the bombs detonated. 3 were recovered immediately, but the 4th was found 2.5 months later. It was immediately dropped & temporarily lost again.

3) In 1950, a B50 bomber returning to the USA accidentally dropped a nuclear bomb due to engine troubles over the small city of RIVIERE-du-LOUPE in QUEBEC, CANADA. The bomb was destroyed in a non-nuclear detonation before it hit the ground & scattered nearly 100 lbs. of uranium.

4) In 1968, a B52 bomber carrying 4 hydrogen bombs crash landed near the airbase of THULE GREENLAND. The bombs detonated on impact, spreading radioactive material over a large area. Bad weapon design ensured that a nuclear explosion was not triggered. The radioactive debris scattered in a nearly 3 mile radius melted thru the ice, sunk, then were frozen over.

5) In the 1950s, the govt, was working on Project Pluto to develop cruise missiles that had a nuclear ramjet, which would use a nuclear reactor that heated/expanded air for propulsion. The missiles could stay airborne for months, cruising in circles over the ocean until ordered onto a target. It would spew radioactive material over any area it was flying over. The project was abandoned when the ICBMs became more practical, fortunately.

6) The Catholic Hospitals in Spain conspired to steal & sell 300,000 newborn babies over a period of five decades, starting during General Franco's dictatorship in the 30s & continuing into the early 90s. The parents of the children were told that their babies died in childbirth.

7) Operation Northwoods was a plan proposed by the CIA to commit genuine acts of terrorism on US soil, going as far as to paint MIG jets with Cuban colors & markings to conduct some of these attacks & blame it on Cuba to create public support for a war against Cuba, which had recently become Communist under Castro. JFK rejected this proposal & removed the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

8) Operation Popeye was a highly classified weather modification program carried out by the USA in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war. The cloud seeding operation was carried out in an attempt to extend the monsoon season, to cause landslides, flooding, destroy enemy supply routes, etc. Weather manipulation has since been banned from use for military gain.

9) In 1995, a team of American & Norwegian scientists fired a 4-stage rocket into the sky to study the effects on the Aurora Borealis. At its peak height the rocket resembled a US NAVY TRIDENT missile. Fearing the US had just launched a surprise attack on them, Russia had nukes ready to fire, but one single man in the Russian security Dept. decided it wouldn't make sense for the US to do a surprise nuke attack and ordered not to go thru with the retaliation.

10) In the late 2000s, it was uncovered that several undercover British police officers, as part of the National Public Order Intelligence Unit entered into intimate relationships with members of different activist groups to infiltrate them. In some cases, some of them got into relationships & had kids with the activists.

11) As part of the STARGATE PROJECT, CIA and the military spent 20 million to use 'remote viewers' as psychic spies for the US govt. In one particularly interesting case from 1984, the CIA gave a self proclaimed psychic a sealed envelope & tried to trick him to supposedly project to Mars to approximately 1 million years BC. The psychic just got confused by the landscape & described planetary catastrophe, strange structures (including pyramids) & the strange inhabitants on the red planet.

12) In 2017, a group of data scientists digging into the internet extensively, came to a conclusion that a company called CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA was using a Weaponized AI Propaganda Machine to target people individually to recruit them to an idea. It was leveraging automated emotional manipulation alongside swarms of bots, FACEBOOK dark posts, A/B testing & fake news networks to prey on the personalities of individual voters to create large shifts in public opinion. In March 2018, multiple media outlets broke news of CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA's shady practices.

13) Project MK ULTRA, which ran from 1953 - 1973, was a CIA mind control program. Experiments were done on humans to identify & develop drugs & procedures to be used in interrogations in order to weaken individuals & force concessions through mind control. Ted Kaczynski, AKA the Unabomber, who was a child prodigy, became a victim of the project during his stint as a math professor at UC Berkeley at the age of 25 & it may have led to his future behavior.

14) One of the internal CIA documents leaked by WIKILEAKS in early 2017 revealed that the agency had been exploring methods to hack into vehicle systems. This program, the death of Journalist Michael Hastings, who was investigating the gov't's military & intelligence apparatus, especially the CIA. He died after losing control of his car & crashing into a tree at about 100 mph. Before his death he informed his colleagues that he was under gov't, surveillance & also suspected that his vehicle had been tampered with.

15) In 1950, the US Navy sprayed a cloud of bacteria over San Francisco in a bio warfare experiment under Operation Sea Spray, just to see what happened. 11 patients at a local hospital developed very rare, serious infections & it led to the death of 1 patient. Cases of pneumonia also increased in San Francisco after the experiment.

16) The Gay Bomb is an informal name for a theoretical non-lethal chemical weapon that a USAF research lab speculated about producing. The theories involve discharging female sex pheromones over enemy forces in order to make them sexually attracted to each other.

17) Pollster & media strategist FRANK LUNTZ wrote a paper on how to effectively wage war on environmental science. After big gains by environmentalists in the 70s, corporate interests colluded to fight back using propaganda techniques (front groups, public relations, think tanks, etc.). Into the 90s their big battle was against the science of global warming, & LUNTZ basically wrote the playbook for how to deny, obfuscate, spin, & reframe the debate.

18) Laboratory 12 was a Soviet assassination lab that used poisons to kill its victims. People were poisoned in broad daylight & they were indefensible even if they knew it was coming. One of the more interesting cases involved a man who knew he was targeted he holed up in a hotel with guards. The assassins sprayed a poisonous substance on the lampshade & when the lamp was turned on hours later, the substance evaporated & killed everyone in the room.

19) In 2007, the Pentagon commissioned the Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program to study UFOs. One of the program contractors modified buildings in Las Vegas to store metal alloys & other materials recovered from unidentified aerial phenomena. The program has recordings of reported UFO incidents, including the footage from a NAVY F/A-18 Super Hornet showing an aircraft surrounded by some kind of glowing aura travelling at high speed & rotating as it moves. The Navy pilots can be heard saying "There's a whole fleet of them".

20) The US Dept. of Health & Human Services practiced involuntary surgical sterilization on Native American women all the way through the 1970s. The procedure was often done under the pretense of a checkup or abortion. Most of the victims were not aware they had been sterilized even after the procedure. The average birth rate of Native American women fell from 3.79 in the 70s to 1.8 in the 80s.

21) In 1954, there was a proposal for a SUNDIAL bomb. Its explosive yield was proposed to be 10 Gigatons, the largest bomb ever designed. The largest bomb ever detonated, the TSAR bomb, had a max theoretical yield of 100 megatons. SUNDIAL was 100 x more powerful & could scorch an area the size of France or Texas.

