

Sunflower Seeds



NOVEMBER
2018

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

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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
NOV 3RD	MONTHLY PIG OUT	CHIANG MAI THAI RESTAURANT 3141 S HILLSIDE HTTP://CHIANGMAITHAIKS.COM	12:45 PM
10TH	STATED MEETING AND GUEST SPEAKER	WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT 4701 E DOUGLAS HTTP://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM	2:00 PM
17TH	FOOD FOR THOUGHT	WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT 4701 E DOUGLAS HTTP://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM	11:00 AM
24TH	BANTER AND BOOKS	BARNES & NOBELS, REAR EATING AREA 1920 N ROCK RD HTTP://STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/STORE/2319	7:00 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, in full 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.

Last Month's Guest Speaker:



For our October Program Meeting, Homa regaled our chapter with details on the culture and achievements of the people of Iran. Much was learned about the peace initiatives and human rights advances that are being made by even the common people there. She also wore an exquisite sequined dress typical of what might be worn to special events in her native country.

“Slides, personal information, history, ethnic groups, and information about daily life. The presentation was well received and there was much discussion.”

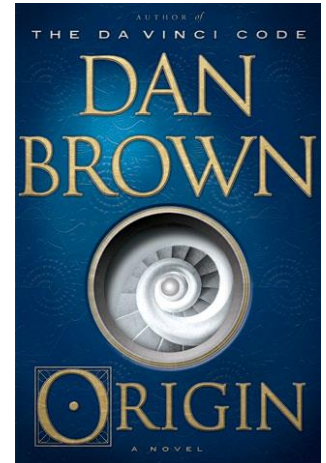
Even though I am much more attune to disparate lifeways than the average American, I was disappointed of my ignorance of the country of discussion. What I came away with from the presentation was that people are more alike than different, regardless of what part of the World they happen to reside in. Even

though they are constantly vilified in the mainstream media, Iranians seem to face many of the exact same problems as we Americans, and upon closer examination, are not really very different after all, and certainly should not be considered as enemies. Slides of the presentation are now available on-line.

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

November's Guest Speaker:

November's speaker will be our very own Larry Paarmann. He will present a review 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, is assassinated while in the middle of revealing to a world-wide audience his recent findings about the future of mankind. In the aftermath, Robert Langdon, friend of Kirsch and present at the announcement, goes through a frantic pursuit via a Gulfstream jet and Tesla sports car, from exotic location to exotic location throughout Spain, and only a few steps ahead of the police and would-be assassins of the Palmarian sect church, attempting to find the supercomputer, and the password, to discover and release Kirsch's message to the world. It is hoped that the presentation will be both entertaining and informative.



LocSec Korner

Larry D. Paarmann

As you know, Kansas Sunflower Mensa (KSM) meets every Saturday for one event or another. Most months have four Saturdays, but a few times a year the month will have a fifth Saturday. When there is a fifth Saturday we meet for lunch at the Muse Café in the Wichita Art Museum, and sometimes we take a walking tour of some of the exhibits after lunch. As was mentioned in the October issue of SEEDS, Cole Carland started the monthly Pig Out SIG, and I believe he was also



the one that started our Blue Moon SIG (fifth Saturday lunch and Museum tour). The Wichita Art Museum, and the Muse Café, are beautiful facilities, and while admission most of the time requires purchasing a ticket, on the weekends the Museum admission is free. The quality of the food is high, and the prices are quite reasonable. Our most recent visit was on September 29th (see picture), too late to get this article in the October issue of SEEDS. Our next Blue Moon meeting will be on December 29th.

Election Progress

The Nominating Committee posted its slate of nominations in the October issue of SEEDS. You still have the opportunity, if you wish, to add additional nominations by petition, but each one must be received by the Nominating Committee no later than November 15th, and each one must be supported by ten signatures of members of Kansas Sunflower Mensa.

If there are no additional nominations, there will be only one nomination per elected office, and therefore, per our Bylaws, "those candidates shall be declared elected without balloting." However, if there are additional nominations by petition, then "Ballots shall be printed in the December issue of the newsletter". Ballots will need to be returned no later than December 20th: details will be provided. Results will be printed in the January newsletter.

2018 AG Report

The 2018 Mensa Annual Gathering (AG) was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 4-9. It was hosted by the JW Marriott Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. There was an attendance of over 1,700, including seven members of Kansas Sunflower Mensa (KSM). There were about 215 speakers and a little over 300 meetings at the AG. At times there were as many as eight things taking place at the same time. A 2018 AG Report has been prepared for KSM members, and it is posted on our web site <http://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org> under Articles. We hope you will enjoy the report. The 2019 AG will be held in Phoenix.

Pig Out Remembrances

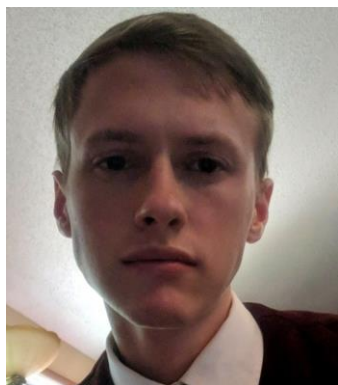
Our Pig Out location for October was The Sweet Spot, 8448 W. Central Ave., Wichita.

The Sweet Spot has only been open for about three months, is in a nice location, is spacious and attractive, and has a very interesting menu, where they specialize in steaks and seafood. It is a little pricey, perhaps, but we ordered, mostly, from the lunch menu.

I think everyone there enjoyed the experience, and of course, conversation was the principle ingredient.



Welcome Our Newest Member



Ethan Caylor was tested by Dan Gollub, who has seen the error of his ways and has returned to Wichita in late September, so we have once again a Testing proctor. Ethan passed the test and has joined our chapter of Mensa.

He has participated in some of our meetings already, attending the latest Blue Moon SIG and our latest Program Meeting.

Ethan is a student at Wichita State University. If you have not already done so, please give Ethan a big welcome!

I talked with a homeless man this morning and asked him how he ended up this way. He said, "Up until last week, I still had it all. I had plenty to eat, my clothes were washed and pressed, I had a roof over my head, I had HDTV and Internet, and I went to the gym, the pool, and the library. I was working on my MBA on-line. I had no bills and no debt. I even had full medical coverage." I felt sorry for him, so I asked, "What happened? Drugs? Alcohol? Divorce?" "Oh no, nothing like that," he said. "... I was paroled."

Gordon

Sunflower Mensa Financial Report

3rd Quarter [July 1-Sept 30, 2018]

Diane Powell, Treasurer

Balance July 1, 2018	\$3,953.75
Total Seeds Expenses [July-Aug-Sept]	-\$93.22
Screen/Projectors [2]	-\$43.00
New Checks [120 ct.]	-\$22.00
Advertising	-\$250.79
National Funding	+\$296.40
Balance September 30, 2018	\$3,841.14

Can you crack the code?
www.puzzles-world.com



2 9 1 One number is correct and well placed

2 4 5 One number is correct but wrong place

4 6 3 Two numbers are correct but wrong places

5 7 8 Nothing is correct

5 6 9 One number is correct but wrong place

Descartes Joke



A horse walks into a bar and the bartender says, "You're in here a lot. Are you an alcoholic?" The horse ponders for a bit and says, "I don't think I am." The horse then disappears in a puff of smoke.

Now, this is where philosophy students will start to snicker, because they would already know about René Descartes' postulate, "I think, therefore, I am. (Cogito, ergo sum.)" But to tell you that first would be putting Descartes before the horse.

OVERHEARD IN DUBLIN

- (1) "There was a power outage at the department store last week. Twenty of us customers were stranded on the escalator for an hour."
- (2) "O'Leary, your glass is empty. Will you be having another one?" "And what would I be doing with two empty glasses?" O'Leary replied.
- (3) "I don't think me husband has been faithful. Me last child don't look nothing like him."
- (4) "I can only tell you this only once, because I promised Mrs. O'Leary I would never repeat it"
- (5) Murphy's doctor said he had only two weeks to live. "I will take the last week in May and the first week in August," he said.
- (6) "We're looking for a Treasurer for the Xmas fund", said Paddy. "Didn't you appoint one last month?" said Murphy. "That's the one we're looking for", Paddy replied.

MINUTE AND MINUTE
SHOULDN'T BE SPELLED THE SAME.

I'M NOT CONTENT WITH THIS CONTENT.

I OBJECT TO THAT OBJECT.

I NEED TO READ WHAT I READ AGAIN.

EXCUSE ME BUT THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR THIS.

SOMEONE SHOULD WIND THIS POST UP
AND THROW IT IN THE WIND.

Isn't English Great!



Heartland Mensa Region 7



RVC Rich Olcott

A lot of news to report from the AMC quarterly meeting, but I'll start this November column by thanking the 118 Mensans who've stepped up to fill the 164 positions that keep our Heartland Region's Local Groups going. Do the math – some of these folks are wearing multiple hats. The next time you see one of these volunteers (check this newsletter's Officers listing), make it a point to say "Thanks." Better yet, offer to help.

Heads-up – this development will probably impact our Officers more than the general membership but just in case. Thanks to a leaky roof, creaky A/C system and general "we've outgrown our space"-ness, the National Office is moving to a new location (still in Arlington TX). Packing and unpacking will keep everyone extra busy over the next few months so response times to requests may be a little slow. For the first time ever, staff will have the week off between Christmas and New-Years, so they can catch their breath before diving into 2019.

Our sparsely populated states have long had a BIG problem –supporting our Mensa testing program when prospective members may be hours away from where the Proctor is, if the Local Group even has a Proctor available when prospects have free time for a test. "Obvious," you say, "use the Internet to do testing." We've been working on that for years, but the test publishers have tight restrictions on where and how their tests can be given online.

One testing center vendor, who has six or more sites in every state, has finally met those restrictions. Negotiations are proceeding, and we hope to be able to offer online testing next year. But don't worry that it might replace face-to-face Proctoring sessions – we're a social organization, after all, and meeting a real live Mensan is the best way to invite a person in.

Some event sponsors have had to deal with another long-standing problem – even Mensans don't always behave well. You may have heard about an incident at the Annual Gathering or a Regional Gathering. American Mensa has an elaborate dispute resolution process, but that's for after the fact. How can we proactively make our Events even safer than they are now, but still preserve the good-times atmosphere that our people want to enjoy? The AMC has charged our newly-appointed Event Safety Task Force with answering that question. You'll see more from them soon. There's more, but it'll have to wait for the December column. Have a great, and thankful, Thanksgiving. ~ Rich

Confucius say: To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

His parents thought he was a budding genius, but he turned out to be a blooming idiot. Anon.



Happy 61st Birthday, Gail Annette!

Mike Dickson submits more interesting fun facts about Switzerland.

- 1) 1816 was called the year without summer due to the eruption of mount Tambora in Indonesia. The cold and dreary weather in Europe drove Mary Shelley indoors, where to pass the time, she penned Frankenstein. Resultant crop failures in Vermont forced Joseph Smith to move westward. During his journey he wrote the book of Mormon.
- 2) The scourge of rabies has been virtually eliminated in Switzerland due to the policy of leaving chicken heads laced with vaccine, spread across the Alps. The indigenous foxes, who were the primary carrier of the disease, ate the heads and were immunized.
- 3) In Switzerland, any group of citizens can challenge any law passed by parliament if they can manage to gather the requisite 50,000 signatures within 100 days. A national vote is then called where a simple majority can either accept or reject the law.
- 4) Although officially a neutral country, Switzerland is covered with 3000 odd demolition points that would cut access to the country in case of invasion.
- 5) Believe it or not, the average salary of a teacher in Switzerland in 2010 was \$112,000 US.
- 6) In medieval times, a rooster in Basel was sentenced to be burned at the stake for “committing the heinous and unnatural crime against God, of laying an egg”.
- 7) The North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un attended university there under an alias. He was disciplined for possessing a bondage porn magazine in his dorm room.
- 8) Canada has a national park larger than the entire country of Switzerland.
- 9) The fines for speeding in Switzerland are not a set amount but based on the individual’s income. Fines of up to half a million Euros have been assessed.
- 10) Switzerland has one of the highest rates of recycling in the World. Recycled material is disposed of for free, while any trash that must be thrown away is assessed a 1 Euro fee and must have an authorization sticker attached.
- 11) In the garden outside of the house in Zurich where Erwin Schrodinger lived, stands a statue of his famous cat. It appears to be either alive or dead depending on the lighting conditions.



- 12) In 1997, physicists at the university of Geneva managed to send intertwined photons seven miles in opposite directions. This proved that the manipulation of one photon caused a simultaneous reaction in the other, even though they had no physical way of interacting with each other.
- 13) A bar of soap, fabricated from the fat of Silvio Berlusconi, was auctioned off for \$18,000 at an art fair in Switzerland.
- 14) Reformer John Calvin was a strong believer in austerity and self-sacrifice. He imposed laws against the consumption and manufacture of luxury products. Geneva’s jewelers were forced into a new line of business, watchmaking. Ironically his ban brought a great deal of wealth to the Swiss, who could now afford more luxury items.
- 15) Switzerland did not join the United Nations until 2002.

Four Point Plan to Revive Sunflower Mensa: Thus Sayeth Klaus

Positive public exposure: We desperately need some positive exposure in the community. Most people have no idea what Mensa is, stands for or the good that it does. That situation needs to change.

- 1) Media – TV and net exposure is everything. It endows almost instant legitimacy to any organization. We cannot afford advertising, but there are other effective ways of getting on camera and getting positive media attention. Public charitable works are a good place to start.
- 2) Volunteer – Fundraising events, charitable activities, anything that helps the community and raises awareness of Mensa. We need visibility and to establish a correlation between Mensa and philanthropy. It would also give us something fun or interesting to do occasionally. Talking about a better world is fine but doing something is better!
- 3) Mensa items – For example: matching sweaters/t-shirts, memory sticks. I like Larry's idea of distributing some branded trinkets, although something like a memory stick would appeal to a younger audience. Wouldn't it be an attention getter if we could all wear the same Mensa attire in public gatherings? A few hundred dollars spent in this area would go a long way towards furthering our cause.

"It's cool to be smart campaign": Let us be honest, the main-stream media usually portrays anyone with a high IQ, as being geeky or nerdy, somehow less worthy than the "average person". The unassailable truth is that without these "smart people", we would all still live in a stone age. Societies advancement and continued existence is predicated on the intelligent and the genius.



- 1) Disseminate a Mensa mantra such as "Smart is Cool. Where would you be without technology?" It can eventually evolve into a social movement dedicated to the betterment of Mankind through education and through embracing genius as the highest ideal any person can hope to attain.

Implement activities designed to appeal to younger Mensans: The median age of active Mensans in our group is around 60. It is generally not particularly appealing to a young person to hang around their grandparents. We need a critical mass of people under 30 if we are not to fade away.

- 1) Video game night – A big screen, gaming system and a few games might be a great draw. Could have a movie night as well, playing Avant Garde fare. Youth group and youth only functions.
- 2) Involve more females – Women are underrepresented in Mensa and should be made especially welcome. Young men would be much more apt to come to events if more of the opposite sex were in attendance. Let us not forget that Mensa originally started as a way for intelligent men to meet intelligent women.

Solicit high school honors students and universities: We need to target this specific demographic in search of new members. Who is better suited than those already interested in intellectual growth? These people would be much more likely to harbor a positive opinion of membership in our organization. An educational institute coordinator position is called for. We need to have someone who has access to the educational system, to help coordinate public events like a booth at fairs or giving presentations to student audiences. This position would be the cornerstone of our efforts to grow.