



**Kansas Mensa  
Sunflower Seeds  
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*A New Year always brings New Beginnings.*

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

# THIS MONTH'S SATURDAY EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
JAN 5TH	MONTHLY PIG OUT	HANGER ONE 5925 W KELLOGG DR (316) 941 4900	12:45 PM
12TH	GUEST SPEAKER AND STATED MEETING	WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT 4701 E DOUGLAS <a href="http://watermarkbooks.com">HTTP://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM</a>	1:00 PM
19TH	FOOD FOR THOUGHT	WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT 4701 E DOUGLAS <a href="http://watermarkbooks.com">HTTP://WATERMARKBOOKS.COM</a>	11:00 AM
26TH	BANTER AND BOOKS	BARNES & NOBELS, EATING AREA 1920 N ROCK RD <a href="http://stores.barnesandnobles.com/store/2319">HTTP://STORES.BARNESANDNOBELS.COM/STORE/2319</a>	7:00 PM

**This Month's Pig Out details:** Located on the South service road in the second row of bldgs. It is the structure with a second story looking like a control tower. Menu online, says free appetizer (mention it to waitstaff).

**Next Month's Pig Out location will be:** El Agave Restaurant 3540 N Maize Rd. It is a new addition to the west side. Recently opened; it is a close copy of the original on N Rock Rd.

## Last Month's Pig Out:



Our Pig Out location for December was Restaurante Usuluteco, 2265 S. Seneca St., Wichita. Restaurante Usuluteco is a Salvadoran Restaurant, which is a little like Mexican, but has its own distinctions. For example, they are known for Popusas (see photo below), which is a thick corn tortilla stuffed with a savory filling. Yelp rates the place with five stars! It was a very good dining experience.

## December's annual X-mas get together.

This year the Christmas get together was at a new location for the first time in many years. Many thanks to Gordon for being gracious enough to host the event in the past.

Fourteen members were in attendance, and everyone seemed to enjoy the company and conversation. The food was pretty good, but the dessert offerings were superb.

I was hoping that some of the sweets could be sent home with the guests, but I am not complaining. Felt it was my duty to consume said left overs, and it was done with relish.



## LocSec Korner

Welcome to a New Year of activities with Kansas Sunflower Mensa (KSM). As usual, we will have something going on every Saturday. The first Saturday of each month will be our Pig Out SIG, and we look forward to exploring several more interesting ethnic dining places in and around Wichita. Let's encourage Mike as he continues to find them! The second Saturday of each month will be our monthly Program Meeting. I don't know how he does it, but let's encourage Bill (I assume) as he just keeps coming up with interesting program speakers. The third Saturday of each month is our monthly Food for Thought meeting, where you will find food and conversation. The fourth Saturday of each month is our monthly Banter and Books meeting, again for good conversation. If there is a fifth Saturday in the month, we will meet for our Blue Moon SIG at the Muse Café in the Wichita Art Museum, for, once again, you guessed it, more conversation! One of the most positive aspects of being active in Mensa is good, interesting, never a dull moment, conversation! You may find it difficult to find elsewhere, but not among Mensans.

A couple of reminders: First, membership renewal fees are due no later than March 31st. Why not take care of it now and not risk forgetting it? Second, if you are planning on attending the 2019 AG in Phoenix, don't forget that registration fees go up the longer you wait. The break points are January 4th (you may have already missed this, depending on when you are reading this), February 28th, June 15th, and then on-site. The on-site registration fee is 36.5% higher than the January 4th fee, so plan ahead and save.

Larry D. Paarmann

## ExCom Meeting

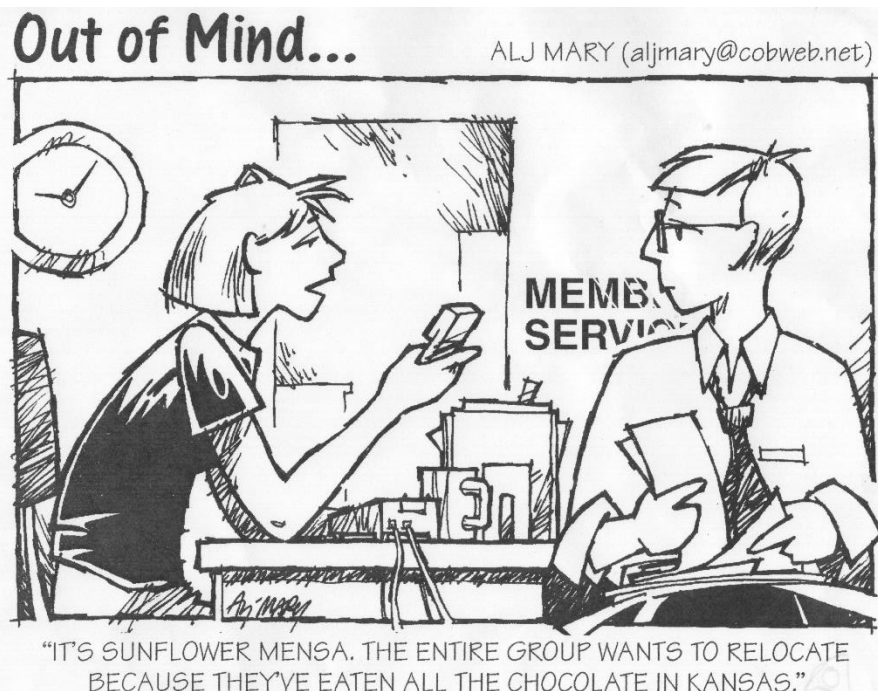
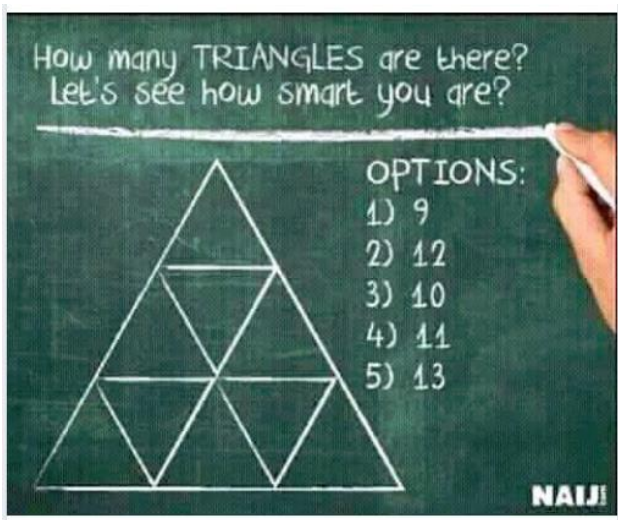
As was announced in the December issue of SEEDS, there will be an Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, January 12, 2019, immediately after the Program Meeting on that day is over (about 3:30 PM or so). Please refer to the December issue for some details of the agenda.

## Upcoming changes:

Beginning next month, there will be several improvements to our illustrious publication including a classifieds section for the exclusive use of our members. It will be free of charge. Details will be published in the February edition.



*Can you find the sneaky snake hiding in this picture?*



## Mount Sunflower

Who said Kansas was a flat state, that we are “flat and happy”? At 4,039 feet above sea level, **Mount Sunflower** is the highest point in Kansas. It is located at the far west side of Kansas on the Harold Family Ranch in Wallace County. Mount Sunflower is 3,360 feet above the state’s lowest point near Coffeyville, Kansas.

Some people would describe Mount Sunflower as a barely noticeable rise in the middle of a field on a ranch 1/2 mile from the Colorado border, but they would lack vision.



For over 30 years the ranch owners have erected a small shrine on Mount Sunflower. There is a covered picnic area, metal sculpture, rocks, a memorial to Edward and Elizabeth Harold (who homesteaded the ranch in 1905) and a mail box which contains a guest book and a few details about the spot.

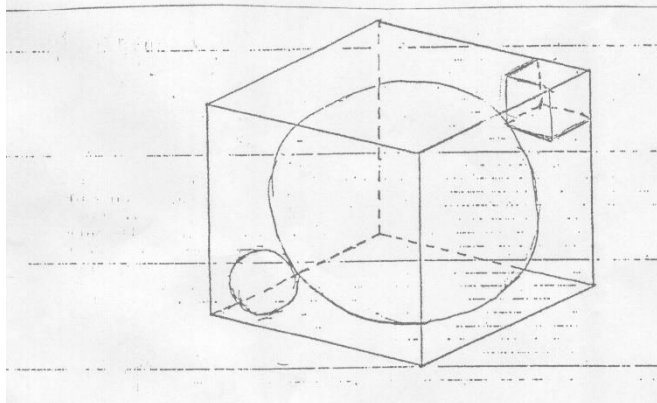
You can’t get to Mount Sunflower without driving long distances on gravel roads. From US 40 take Road WA S-3 (3 miles west of Weskan, Kansas) north for 13 miles, turn west on an un-named road (there is a Mount Sunflower sign) just over 1 mile, then turn right (north) onto the ranch at the clearly marked Mount Sunflower entrance. From I-70, take Kansas Highway 27 south from Goodland for 17 miles, turn west on Road WA-W-BB for 12 miles, south on Road WA-N6 for 4 miles, west on WA-W-X Road for 3 miles, south on Road WA S-3 for one mile, west on un-named road just over 1, then turn right (north) onto the ranch at the clearly marked Mount Sunflower entrance. Most, but not all, of the turns on the way to Mount Sunflower have signs.

Mike and Mae Marie (Harold) Jones invite visitors to enjoy Mount Sunflower but ask that you treat Mount Sunflower as you would treat your own property. As you can see from the picture, Mount Sunflower isn’t a mountain, but rather just a hill, and not much of a hill at that, but it is the high point in Kansas!

This article, although edited and freely modified, was mostly freely taken from the following web site without any permission whatsoever: <http://www.kansastravel.org/mountsunflower.htm>

Problems: Given a cube of any size (eg side =1) that contains a sphere that just fits (diameter=cube side), it touches all six sides. The cube also contains a small sphere in a corner that just touches the large sphere and three sides of the large cube. Lastly, it contains a small cube that fits in a corner and just touches the large sphere and three sides of the large cube.

- 1) Solve for the diameter of the smaller sphere.
- 2) Solve for a side of the smaller cube.



A man has come to a point in his existence where an overwhelming urge has arisen from within. To make a once in a lifetime journey, to make an epic attempt to complete a “walk-about”.

A walk-about is an ancient rite of passage practiced by the Native Australians for millennia immemorial; a way of developing one’s inner self that is only now slowly making inroads into mainstream occidental society. It is similar in nature to the ancient “vision quests” of some Native American tribes. These journeys are meant to be a turning point in a person’s life, taken to find oneself and one’s intended spiritual and life direction. The pursuit of this mystical event is an inalienable right of any sentient being.

When ready, a man will go on a personal, spiritual quest alone in the wilderness, often in conjunction with a period of fasting, deprivation or entheogens. This may last for days, weeks or even months while the person becomes attuned to the larger spirit world. Occasionally a Guardian animal will manifest in the form of a vision or dream.

At some point in this journey a person’s life direction will become clear and his path will be revealed. This purified, improved man can then finally return to the “real World.” He would now be ready to pursue his intended, if not ordained direction in life. Put another way, a man leaves all but the most basic possessions and wanders aimlessly, without plans or direction, at the mercy of fate. Eventually after a sufficient period of time has passed, he may in some way “find his true self”. Used traditionally as a rite of initiation it can also be used as a safety mechanism, utilized in times of utter stress, when one can no longer bear the shackles placed on him by “loved ones”, by cruel fate or even by his own hands. A time when a man must come to grips with what he is and what he has or hasn’t accomplished in life, lest he is consumed by his mistakes and what could have been.

The sort of man who would choose this path has accepted the cold, inescapable certainty that he is truly alone in this World, and that even the remotest possibility of any sort of relief will only come from within. He is not foolish enough to give in to that unattainable dream of ever touching the forbidden fruit of contentment but will suffice to spend the rest of his days with simply a “calm mind”. Only by trial, and being completely removed from human contact, the vile vicissitudes of fate, the constant drama, the unrequited love, the all too often staggering responsibilities, can there be any hope at healing, rebuilding or perhaps even growing.

With this I must wish you all a fond adieu.

© Klaus Trenary

An abandoned old farm house near the Maxwell game preserve in central Kansas, North of Wichita. From the condition, it was probably vacated in dustbowl times.

Makes you wonder what extreme event would force a family to abandon their home, farm and land. To pull up stakes and start an uncertain new life far away.

Many such scenes dot the prairies of Kansas. Tranquil yet slightly disturbing, these ghostly remnants of a bygone age. Very few people are left alive that may have cherished these buildings when they were called their home.





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