

SUNFLOWER SEEDS



June 2019, Volume – 47, Issue # 6

Kansas Sunflower Mensa



The beginning of Summer brings blessed warmth to the Earth. This is also the season of storms here on the great plains. Trees that sprouted long before I was born, are destroyed in a single afternoon.

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Chapter's Official Web Sites:

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

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

June Group Events:

**Saturday 1st 12:45pm - MONTHLY PIG OUT
A CHANCE TO DINE WITH MENSA FRIENDS.**

NEIGHBOR'S BAR & GRILL

2315 W 21ST ST

(316) 838-1338

**Saturday 8th 2:00pm - GUEST SPEAKER (page-4)
STATED MEETING AFTER PRESENTATION**

FAIRMOUNT COFFEE, MEETING ROOM

3815 E 17TH ST

[HTTP://WWW.FAIRMOUNTCOFFEE.COM](http://www.fairmountcoffee.com)

**Saturday 15th 11:00am – MONTHLY FIELD TRIP
JOIN US FOR A FUN ROAD TRIP.**

WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT AREA

4701 E DOUGLAS

[HTTP://WWW.WICHITAHISTORY.ORG](http://www.wichitahistory.org)

**Saturday 22nd 7:00pm – BANTER AND BOOKS
GOOD CAMARADERIE AND DISCUSSIONS.**

BARNES & NOBELS, EATING AREA

1920 N ROCK RD

[HTTP://WWW.STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM](http://www.stores.barnesandnobles.com)

**Saturday 29th 12:45pm – BLUE MOON MEET
TIME AGAIN FOR A RARE EVENT**

WICHITA ART MUSEUM - UPSTAIRS LOUNGE

1400 Museum BLVD

[HTTP://WWW.WICHITAARTMUSEUM.ORG](http://www.wichitaartmuseum.org)



Thousands of authentic items related to the history of the exploration of space. From humble beginnings all the way to the space shuttle. The American, German and Russian space programs are all featured. Admission is \$11.50 seniors, \$13.50 adults.



June Pig Out: *Neighbor's Bar & Grill*



An unpretentious haunt serving American comfort grub such as chicken fried steak & burgers.



There is a full bar for those interested in drinks with a little more bite. Friendly service and reasonable prices.

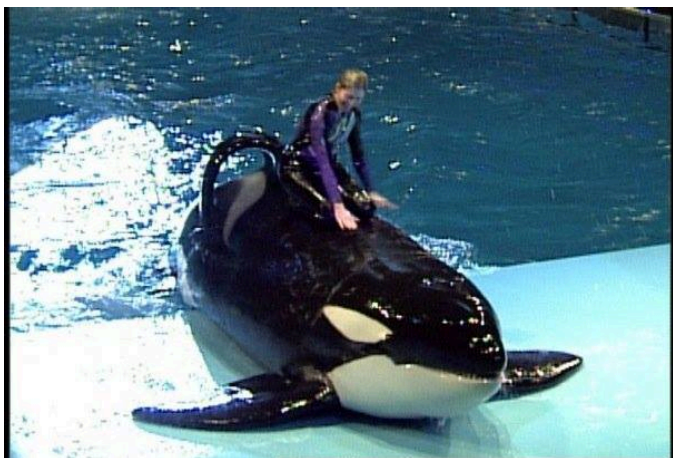
Chapter Field Trip for June:

We will be heading across the prairie to the town of Hutchinson. Our destination will be the World-Famous Cosmosphere Space Museum. Not to be missed!

<https://cosmo.org>

Located at 1100 N Plum, Hutchinson Kansas.

This Month's Guest Speaker:



Bridgette Pirtle will speak on Orcas, Elephants, and the Environment. She worked at Sea World with Orcas and The Wichita Zoo with elephants.

May's Guest Speaker:



Our guest speaker for May was Heather White from the organization of ICT SOS, devoted to ending human trafficking in Wichita. Her presentation stirred much discussion. Even though she was asked some tough questions, she maintained her composure and presented her side of the issue well.



Our last two official meetings have been held at Fairmount Coffee. Though most of us are too old to enjoy much change, it is generally agreed that this location would be well suited to future gatherings.



The private meeting room at Fairmount Coffee which is reserved for our Mensa group.

May's Chapter Field Trip: We visited the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. Even though the event was to be underwritten by the Seeds, Gordon was quick to proffer a couple of admission coupons and we all got in for free.



May's Pig-Out Highlights: Lunch at N&J Café.



Reminder! 2019 Mensa AG Coming Soon



The 2019 Mensa AG is coming up fast! You still have time to make your plans, register, make hotel reservations, etc. The dates for the AG are July 3 through 7 (Wednesday through Sunday). If you register by June 15th you can still save \$30 off the on-site registration fee. The venue for this year's AG is the Sheraton Grand Phoenix Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona. By the time you read this the tentative AG program schedule should be posted, along with all the details of the AG on the AG web site at <https://ag.us.mensa.org>. We had a good turnout from Kansas Sunflower Mensa at the 2018 AG. Let's have a good turnout again this year!



Heartland Mensa Region 7



I know this will be controversial in some quarters, but I like Daylight Savings Time. Last night the sun set at 8:00 pm (it's early May as I write this) so there was plenty of time for an afternoon walk and a late dinner before I settled in for a good read. I understand and sympathize with the many people who object to the twice-a-year time change. Easy to fix – just stay on DST all year round. Problem solved. A couple of our Colorado state legislators submitted a bill last year to do just that, but

it failed. Then this year an opposing cabal of Wrong Thinkers submitted a bill to completely do away with DST. That failed, too. I guess we'll keep tinkering with the clock a while longer.

Being a voracious reader, I truly enjoy reviewing our Local Group newsletters. Each has their strong points and all of them report on local doings so I can keep track of Mensa friends I've met across the Region. I daren't try to pick favorites, but **Dennis Lenahan's** *HMMmm* (High Mountain Mensa) stands out for humor and puzzles, **Tami Whitney's** *Brainiac* (Nebraska/Western Iowa Mensa) features poetry, **Klaus Trenary's** *Seeds* (Kansas Sunflower Mensa) and **Gail Elliott's** *Mpressions* (Central Iowa Mensa) provide thought-provoking articles, **Diana Dyer's** *Mension* (Mid-America Mensa) even includes recipes, and Wyoming Mensa's **Paula Wilson-Caziér** (*WyoMensa*), Plains&Peaks Mensa's **Betsy Ogan** (*PlainsPeaking*) and Denver Mensa's **Taylor Profita** (*Matrix*) generally knock my socks off for their visual design work. You can check most Local Group newsletters for yourself. Just logon to the American Mensa Web site, navigate to us.mensa.org/read/group-newsletters/ and download your pick of current and archived issues. ~ Rich

Sex Trafficking in Wichita

By: Larry Paarman

To some, those that have had no contact with it and know no one who has, the idea of sex trafficking in Wichita may seem relatively irrelevant and unimportant. Yet, according to a KWCH12 report of August 27, 2018, "Police say 'proactive enforcement efforts' to target prostitution and human trafficking late last week netted several arrests. Four people were arrested on South Webb Road, two 26-year-old females and an 18-year-old female were arrested on charges of promoting sexual relations, and a 48-year-old who was arrested on warrants." According to *The Wichita Eagle*, March 1, 2018, "Human trafficking is one of the largest criminal industries in the world. Kansas has been named an 'originating state' for human trafficking." Also according to *The Wichita Eagle*, February 27, 2019, "Ever since she learned about human trafficking happening in Wichita, Jennifer White has been helping raise awareness about the issue and helping groups

who work directly with victim survivors. White founded ICT SOS in 2011 after reading a newspaper article about human trafficking. As the mother of two daughters, including one who was 12 at the time – the age that many enter human trafficking – she was “compelled to do something, she said.”

We were pleased to have Jennifer White, mentioned above, to be our speaker at our Program Meeting on May 11th. This was the second program meeting we have had at our new meeting place of Fairmount Coffee, 3815 E. 17th Street North, Wichita. Jennifer is the founder of ICT SOS in 2011, located at 1211 S. Emporia Street, Wichita. The kids she works with (maybe 12 to 18 years old) are from the Wichita area, but in very bad family situations, foster care, etc. Most pimps, or manipulators, are family members or a close personal friend, which make these situations all the more difficult. Often, the young females involved have no close personal friend other than the manipulator. She spoke without notes and was very competent. The meeting had lots of discussion. For more information see the ICT SOS web site at <http://ictsos.org>

Seeds of Destruction

Words get redefined for us. Three such are: discrimination, prejudice and racist. These used to be acceptable human traits, even admirable, but are now defined as bad.

Says who? Most of us who have given this any thought understand that it is the media that is defining the new right and wrong. Who is the media? What gives them the authority to redefine words, and tell us what is now acceptable? The answers, of course, are: 1): We do not know who controls the media, and 2): They have no legitimate authority to dictate morality. The only thing they have is access to our minds and thus can tell us repeatedly whatever they wish. We listen. Most of us think we know what to believe because we hear it or read it so often in the “news.” We tend to believe that anyone who does not accept it is just plain ignorant. This is the power of the press.

When I was young, discrimination was an admirable trait. Stores advertised that they were a good place for “discriminating” buyers to shop. Anyone who was not discriminating would end up with junk.

Prejudice, in addition to its more common usage, is a legal term. It means: “If this case is ever brought up again it is pre-judged to have the same verdict as this time.” Most judges would not be ashamed to impose that prejudice. In its more usual usage, prejudice means to make a judgment without having access to all the facts. Is that so bad? Do we ever do that? Of course we do. Do we ever do anything else? Rarely. If we always waited to get all the facts before making a decision, we would rarely do anything. Would that be good? I think not.

Racism. We are told that this is one of the worst human traits. Yet, who does not instinctively care more about his relatives than he does about strangers? Is that bad? Should I care no more about my children than the neighbor’s children? I think it is reasonable to do so. If I do not, I think I am not only immoral but a bit insane.

I say we should keep our guard up and have a little skepticism toward what we are told to believe.

~ ANON



Believe it or not, Mike was able to fit into the antique phone booth at the Historical Museum. There were a few of us that thought he would never get out, but he proved us wrong.

Rape Culture in the USA

by Bill Barnett

5/12/2019

In the March, 2019, issue of SUNFLOWER SEEDS, Klaus Trenary had a very interesting article with the title "A Discussion of Some Cultural Differences in Attitudes about Sexuality." He stated: "Interestingly there is a general decrease in societal violence that correlates directly to the level of that group's sexual freedom." And "The Manganian islanders and Polynesian cultures in general enjoy a much greater sexual freedom than we are accustomed to. ... It was not taboo for adults of either gender to engage minors in sex for purposes of instruction or otherwise. Most children were initiated at an early age and by all accounts were eager participants." The full article can be accessed on the American Mensa website and Kansas Sunflower Mensa website.

In the May issue of Sunflower Seeds, Diane Powell countered with an article titled "Sexual Morals and Civilization". She pointed out research that showed such societies were not the paradise described, but were brutish societies with violence and a rape culture.

They have head-hunters and young boys tutoring each other on rape techniques.

I was asked about these articles and my reply was to publish them.

I reply rape culture in the USA should be covered in an article. It is easy to talk about other people on the other side of the world, but we have no say in what happens there. We are responsible for what happens with us.

I have been made very aware of the rape culture in my country, the USA, by many women telling me their stories. As well as many women telling me statistics and commentaries on our society. We like to think of ourselves as superior and morally better than other societies. It is not so.

Women talk to me as a pastor and tell me many things. I think they just need someone to talk to and believe they can trust me. Some have made it clear they do not trust others. They do not trust fundamentalist men and people with right wing politics because they believe they will be blamed for being the victim of assault and punished. With some people that would be the official policy. The stories are true except the names are

changed and I am giving the short story. The full details are even worse.

Case 1 was raped by her husband. They were not getting along. She did not want sex. He told her that if she did not have sex with him and act like she liked it she would be in the hospital or morgue. She was not able to leave him because laws protecting his parental rights would have made her a kidnapper. They later divorced. This is hidden rape.

Case 2 grew up in a conservative home. She did not attend sex education. She did not date until after college. She was raped on a date when she started dating. She did not have the knowledge or social skills to deal with an aggressive man on a date. She cannot tell the people she is close to. She talked to Planned Parenthood and someone outside of her social group. This is a hidden rape.

Case 3 was asked by her employer for sex. She said no, he should not ask her because she was a happily married woman. He was also married. He fired her. He accused her of stealing from the company. She was arrested and a trial date was set. Her attorney told her the charge was ridiculous and there was no evidence. But the judge and jury would believe the employer. And she should do a plea bargain. The court had evidence from an earlier case with the man that could have exonerated her. She was told by the court that the evidence did not exist. She has children and her biggest concern was that she might not be there for them. She did the plea to a misdemeanor and is making restitution. She does not have a felony conviction and did not go to jail or prison. Restitution will take two years of her income. She will be paying the rest of her life. Not a rape, but a major sexual assault. And the assault is protected by law.

Case 4 was told that she would get a promotion if she had sex with her boss. And she would be fired if she did not. She found another job. He did this with many women. She believed she would be the one in trouble if she spoke up. A hidden assault.

Case 5 was pregnant. Her husband hit and kicked and screamed at her. He was taking it out on her for his own failures. And repeated it when she had the baby in her arms. Hidden assault.

Case 6 had her car hijacked in a parking lot. A man faked asking for directions and forced his way in when she was trying to be helpful. He kept her and her

car for hours. She negotiated her way out of full rape by offering other sexual favors. It was the next day before she could face reporting the incident to the police. They were respectful to her and filed a report. The man has done it before and will do it again.

The stories could go on. But that is enough to make a point. It is just the tip of the iceberg. Sexual assault is common. I am told that sexual assault is the most under reported crime in America. And women (and sometimes men and boys) are fearful to report because they get blamed and nothing is done to the perpetrator. They are put in a more dangerous situation physically and psychologically if they report. There are incidences of false accusations. I will list one.

Case 7 was tired of parental authority. She was sick of parents who said no to what she wanted to do. She accused dad of raping her. That blew up parental authority. At trial dad was exonerated. This harmed her, her parents, and every person who has been sexually assaulted. It is as much an assault on women as an assault on men.

It is interesting to study other cultures. It is even better to study our own. We have a rape culture in the USA. It is perpetuated by a good ol' boy system of doing nothing. Leaders who do nothing might as well be tutoring young people on rape techniques. Look at the authority figures who lead us.

The president has said openly: "Grab them by the pussy." And is openly non-repentant. He called it locker room talk. It is not. It is a declaration of criminal intent. He has a history of sexual assault and a long list of credible people who have reported him. Nothing has been done and he is supported by national political leaders and national religious leaders. The president is a moral example for all of us. Either a good moral example or a bad one. And people follow his example. Religious and political leaders who speak on morality have brushed the words of criminal intent and lack of repentance aside as if it was nothing. They perpetuate the rape culture by doing so.

Two supreme court justices have very credible testimony of sexual assault by them that was brushed aside. Partisan politics put power and money above what is moral. This empowers rapists and condemns women who report assault.

Religion is a big motivator in this. Since the Bible is so looked up to by many in our society I will look at it. From the time of Moses the high priest had to be someone with a pure life and then was ritually purified before he could go into the holy of holies to talk to God. Then he could decide what the law meant and what was right and wrong. A supreme court justice is our secular equivalent to a high priest. He is not religious and does not talk to God but he decides what the law means and what is right and wrong.

A supreme court justice should be someone above reproach. Not the drunken sot who assaults women at a college fraternity party or someone who assaults coworkers. There are plenty of boring nerd legal scholars who were working on some civics project or some such thing while the others were in a drunken orgy. A supreme court justice is our secular high priest and should be above reproach.

As long as we accept this kind of behavior from our leaders in government the rape culture will persist. As long as religious and political leaders tolerate the rape culture it will persist. We have the ability to choose our leaders and choose law abiding people. We choose the rape culture when we choose leaders who tolerate it.

There is not anything good that comes from leaders who tolerate the rape culture. It is not a matter of political or religious views. There are people from the all political and religious views who do not tolerate the rape culture. Some people say these people are from God. They are not. They are chosen by us. The religious leaders who tolerate the rape culture and people who promote it do not speak for God. They speak for themselves.



A peaceful scene in the German countryside. Nearly every town or village will have at least one church.

Member YouTube Survey:

How to See the
World

Run by a Kansas
Sunflower
Mensan



About My Channel The
Wilderness Hiker

1. How often do you watch YouTube?
2. What is your favorite channel?
3. What is your favorite subject?
4. What do you like most about YouTube?
5. What do you like least?
6. Have you seen this channel?
7. How many videos have you watched on this channel?
8. Which is your favorite video on this channel?
9. How can this YouTube channel improve?
10. What would you like to see new?



Prarie Dog Town Wichita
Mountain Wildlife Refuge



Ultrarunner Paradise Running
The Wichitas Part 1

Reply to me at:

Grandledge@hotmail.com

A cat died and went to heaven.

God met her at the pearly gates and said, "You have been a good little cat for all of these years. Anything you may wish for is yours."

The cat thought for a moment and then replied, "All of my life I have lived on a farm and slept on hard floors. What I really want is a fluffy pillow to sleep on."

God said, "Say no more." Instantly the cat had a new pillow.

A few days later, six mice were killed in an accident and went to heaven together. God met the mice at the gate with the same offer he had made the cat.

The mice stated emphatically, "Well, we have spent our entire lives running from cats, dogs and even people! If we could just have a tiny pair of roller-skates then we could outpace our enemies.

God answered, "It is done." All the mice then had brand new skates.

About a week passed when God decided to check on the cat. He found her fast asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat to inquire how she has been since they last met. Was she happy?

The cat promptly replied that she thought life was superb. She stated that, "I have never been happier. That pillow and those meals on wheels you sent me are wonderful!"



A fork of Chisolm Creek which was dry this spring but is overflowing its banks as this is being written. Located in East Wichita.



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