

# SUNFLOWER SEEDS



May 2019, Volume-47, Issue-5

Kansas Sunflower Mensa



*Dedicated to this month is the infamous “mantis bike”. These creatures use this energy efficient mode of transportation to commute to work and shopping. Zero emissions and 100% recyclable.*

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**Chapter’s Official Web Sites:**

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

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

## May Group Events:

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 12:45pm - MONTHLY PIG OUT  
A CHANCE TO DINE WITH MENSA FRIENDS.**

**N&J CAFE and BAKERY**

**5600 E Lincoln (Lincoln & Edgemoor)**

**[HTTP://NJCAFEBAKERY.COM](http://NJCAFEBAKERY.COM)**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm - GUEST SPEAKER  
STATED MEETING AFTER PRESENTATION**

**FAIRMOUNT COFFEE**

**3815 E 17<sup>TH</sup> ST**

**[HTTP://WWW.FAIRMOUNTCOFFEE.COM](http://WWW.FAIRMOUNTCOFFEE.COM)**

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00am – MONTHLY FIELD TRIP  
JOIN US FOR A FUN AND FREE ROAD TRIP.**

**WATERMARK BOOKS, BASEMENT**

**4701 E DOUGLAS**

**[HTTP://WWW.WICHITAHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.WICHITAHISTORY.ORG)**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm – BANTER AND BOOKS  
GOOD CAMARADERIE AND DISCUSSIONS.**

**BARNES & NOBELS, EATING AREA**

**1920 N ROCK RD**

**[HTTP://WWW.STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/  
STORE/2319](http://WWW.STORES.BARNESANDNOBLES.COM/STORE/2319)**

## May's Featured Speaker:

Heather White will be our groups speaker. She represents ICT SOS and will speak about sex trafficking in the Wichita area.



## May's Pig Out: N&J's Middle Eastern Food



“Middle Eastern cuisine is part of a dynamic and immersive cultural experience. The Arabic cultures of the Middle East find great joy in evenings filled with food, family and gregarious conversation. Extended families of over 20 people dining and dancing well into the night is the norm. The people are family centric and exceedingly generous. Visitors to the Middle East should not be surprised by frequent invitations to join an Arab family for tea or dinner. For Arab and other cultures of the Middle East cuisine is an opportunity to give to others, make friends and share in an impassioned life. It is in this spirit that N&J welcomes you to a great meal enjoyed with family and friends.”

## FREE Chapter Field Trip this Month:



This month we will be visiting the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. “The Museum has been housed in Wichita’s original City Hall, a landmark building constructed in 1890 and is considered an artwork in itself.”

“A wide variety of the Museum’s exhibits showcase life in Wichita over the centuries, from the Wichita Indian tribe—whose name the town adopted— to the cowboys who drove their cattle here, to the dawn of aviation and the City’s role as the Air Capital of the World.”

**NOTE NEW TIME:** We will meet as always at the Watermark Books basement at 12:00am instead of the usual 11:00. We will plan on leaving around 12:45. This is due to the museum not opening until 1:00pm. I will be driving and have ample room for three other people. We may need additional drivers as the need arises.

To say thanks to our devoted members, the Sunflower Seeds will pay the admission price of \$5.00 for each member and a guest in attendance.

### Memories of April’s Pig Out:



On April 6th, 2019, we met at the more upscale Ya Ya’s Euro Bistro, 8115 E. 21st Street, in Wichita.

The nine Sunflower Mensa members present enjoyed the fine food, atmosphere and, of course, the good conversations.

The pizza and crème brûlée were superb.



### Tentative Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting - April 13, 2019

We did not have a quorum, since only three ExCom members out of six were present. However, we decided to meet anyway to discuss items of concern, but without taking any votes.

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 PM, April 13, 2019, at Fairmount Coffee, 3815 E. 17th Street North, Wichita. Those present were Larry Paarmann, Bill Barnett, Diane Powell, Mike Dickson, Klaus Trenary, James Zongler, and one other.

(1) A discussion was held as to what documents we should post on our web site. It was in general agreement that we post the ExCom Meeting minutes and our Bylaws. Larry Paarmann reported that Rich Olcott sees no problem with this. We also think that our Kansas Sunflower Mensa constitution should be posted, and any other relevant documents such as when and what revisions have been made to our By-Laws in the

past. Klaus Trenary thinks that some of this information may be in old issues of the SEEDS, which he thinks he may have most of them. We can also search elsewhere as well.

(2) A discussion was held about putting a statement about civility in our meetings and on Facebook in our SEEDS. Diane Powell is working on this.

(3) A discussion was held about obtaining someone to fill the post as testing proctor. Our Recruitment and Testing Chair is Dan Gollub, but he lives in Manhattan, so his availability here in Wichita is limited. Larry was happy to report that David Hodgson has agreed to serve as a proctor. He has served as a proctor before in another local group, so this should work out well. We should still be looking for at least one more proctor.

(4) A discussion was held about obtaining a banner from American Mensa that we could use to advertise our Local Group and American Mensa during our monthly program meeting. Our new location at Fairmount Coffee may be ideal for such usage. Larry will look into this.

(5) The possibility of having a phone call campaign to encourage local members who do not attend our meetings was briefly discussed, as recommended by David Hodgson.

(6) Our first Field Trip will be this coming Saturday April 20th, to the Kansas Oil Museum in El Dorado. We need to advertise this a little more, perhaps, by posting it on Facebook, for example. Perhaps interesting outings such as this one will encourage more members to participate in our KSM activities.

(7) The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.

## 2019 American and International Mensa Elections

The American Mensa Election and The Mensa International Election are both open through May 15, 2019. To cast your vote online, you should have received an email with your personalized links for that purpose. Members without an email address on file will receive paper ballots in the mail. If you have not received your paper ballots, contact American Mensa at (817) 607-0060.

## Sunflower Mensa Financial Report

1ST Quarter [Jan. 1, 2019 – Mar. 31, 2019]

Diane Powell, Treasurer Sunflower Mensa

Balance January 1, 2019	\$3,796.74
SEEDS EXPENSES	-\$120.00
Speaker	-\$40.00
National Funding	+ \$302.90
[99.45 + 102.30 + 101.15]	
Balance March 31, 2019	\$3,939.64



## Heartland Mensa Region 7



‘Tis May, ‘tis May, the lucky month of May! (All due respect to Vanessa Redgrave’s stellar performance in *Camelot*, but this is a family-oriented organization so we’ll leave it at that.) I hope everyone is getting outside and enjoying our Heartland Springtime in the best time of the year.

A special “Thank you!” to someone who did double-duty for us this year. Plains & Peaks Mensa’s **Jane Cosper** was scheduled to serve as our Regional Scholarship chair for this year’s essay competition, but a sudden health emergency got in the way. Mid-America Mensa’s Scholarship Chair **Rhonda Johnson** graciously agreed to be a last-minute stand-in for Jane in addition to her own duties. Thanks, Rhonda.

Speaking of people who stepped up, thanks and congratulations to these people who recently took on the LocSec role for our Local Groups

- Beth Anne Demeter for Denver Mensa
- Cynthia Heller for Mid-America Mensa
- Wes Shaw for Nebraska-Western Iowa Mensa

Thanks as well to **Jennifer Jewell, Diana Dyer and Kirk Johnson** for your work during your completed LocSec terms, and to all the other new and retiring Local Group officers. We couldn't do it without you.

If you're reading this during the 15 April – 15 May American Mensa voting period please do take advantage of your opportunity to choose who'll lead the organization and serve this Region over the coming two-year period. There's a good selection of candidates to choose from, plus several Referenda for you to consider. Full details are in your April 2019 issue of *The Bulletin*. Both candidates for RVC-7 have campaign statements available for your inspection at [region7.us.mensa.org](http://region7.us.mensa.org). The balloting is online this year, quick and easy, but if you prefer you can get a paper ballot by calling the National Office at 817-607-0060.

By the way, I just made my reservation for the 2019 Annual Gathering, American Mensa's week-long "nerd camp" that'll be in Phoenix this year. As usual it's scheduled to include the Fourth of July but on the history I'm sure they'll have fireworks, along with all kinds of smart-person fun. Full details are at [ag.us.mensa.org](http://ag.us.mensa.org). See you there!

~~ Rich

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## Sexual Morals and Civilization

by Diane Powell

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." While interesting, I think the article had some facts incorrect, especially about the correlation between sexual freedom in a society and violence, particularly in the South Pacific. I offer the following observations from experts in the field.

Early anthropologists had speculated that greater sexual freedom might be associated with a lower level of societal violence. Margaret Mead set out to conduct original research on a population whose language and customs were unknown to her. Paul C. Vitz, Professor of Psychology at New York University writes in a review of the book *Freudian Fraud* by E. Fuller Torrey [1993] : "In *Coming of Age in Samoa*, Mead popularized the idea of

sexual freedom, especially for the young, claiming that the Samoans had a wonderful, relaxed, non-neurotic, free-love sex life, that they were unaffected by sexual jealousy and were tolerant of extramarital liaisons, etc. (The facts are now known to be quite different.).." [pp. 52-54]

In his book, *How the Mind Works* [1997], Steven Pinker described these findings:

"In anthropology, one South Sea Island paradise after another has turned out to be nasty and brutish. Margaret Mead said that nonchalant sex made the Samoans satisfied and free of crime; it turned out that the boys tutored one another in rape techniques. She called Arapesh "gentle"; they were headhunters. She said that the Tchambuli reversed our sex roles, the men wearing curls and makeup. In fact, the men beat their wives, exterminated neighboring tribes, and treated homicide as a milestone in a young man's life which entitled him to wear the face paint that Mead thought was effeminate." [pp. 426-427]. The Arapesh and Tchambuli tribes are described by Mead in her book *Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies* [1935]

Derek Freeman [1983] writes: "Many educated Samoans, especially those who attended college in New Zealand, had become familiar with Mead's writings about their culture. A number of them entreated me, as an anthropologist, to correct her mistaken depiction of the Samoan ethos. Accordingly, early in 1965 I set about the systematic examination of the entire range of Mead's writings on Samoa, seeking to test her assertions by detailed investigation of the particulars of the behavior or custom to which they referred. I also investigated, with the permission of the prime minister of Western Samoa, confidential court and police records, an invaluable source of data on crucial aspects of aggressive and sexual behavior of Samoans, including that of adolescents." (p. xv). Freeman's research indicated a culture which advocated virginity prior to marriage which was clearly at variance with what Mead had described.

Malinowski writes concerning the need of every child for a father. Based on extensive research he notes that: "...The woman has to be married before she is allowed

legitimately to conceive. Roughly speaking, an unmarried mother is under a ban, a fatherless child is a bastard. [1962, pp. 62-63] This “principal of legitimacy” identified by Malinowski has since been further authenticated by Rutgers professor David Popenoe who writes on the indispensability of fatherhood in his book, *Life Without Father* [1996]. Quoting Malinowski, Popenoe writes: “The most important moral and legal rule concerning the physiological side of kinship is that no child should be brought into the world without a man-and one man at that-assuming the role of sociological father, that is, guardian and protector, the male link between the child and the rest of the community...This is by no means only a European or Christian prejudice; it is the attitude found amongst most barbarous and savage people as well as...I think that this generalization amounts to a universal sociological law.” ( p. 36). Virtually every known society has distinguished between legitimate and illegitimate births and favored the former. " (Popenoe, 1996, pp. 35-36)

Malinowski also writes concerning the tradition of marriage: “The sanctity of the marriage bond is not found merely in the Christian religion, nor is it a prerogative of the higher cultures. The supernatural sanction, derived from a solemn, publicly celebrated, spiritually as well as ethically hallowed ceremony, adds to the binding forces of mere law. Marriage is valid as a legal contract in so far as its breach is visited by worldly retributions and its generous fulfillment carries worldly benefits. As a sacrament, marriage in primitive and civilized societies alike is protected by spiritual powers, rewarding those who observe matrimonial duties meticulously and piously, and punishing those who neglect them.” [1962, p. 22]

Packard in his book *The Sexual Wilderness* [1968] refers to the cross-cultural study by George P. Murdock of over 100 societies. He found that although 70% were indulgent about premarital coitus, more advanced societies “..have almost unanimously at some stage in their development taken a sterner view of full intimacy before marriage.” [Packard, 1968, p. 69] Definitive work done by J. D. Unwin [1934] compared 80 “uncivilized” cultures with 16 civilized cultures extending over the last 4,000 years. Daniel Janosik describes these findings: “He found that when strict heterosexual monogamy was practiced, the society attained its greatest cultural

energy, especially in the arts, sciences and technology. But as people rebelled against the prohibitions placed upon them and demanded more sexual opportunities, there was a consequent loss of their creative energy, which resulted in the decline and eventual destruction of the civilization. Remarkably, he did not find any exception to this trend.” [2012]. **It would seem to me that the evidence supports traditional sexual morality in terms of contributing to civilization. Some may differ, but careful research supports tradition sexual morality.**

Freeman, Derek [1983]. *Margaret Mead and Samoa: The Making and Unmaking of an Anthropological Myth*. Harvard U. Press : Cambridge.

Janosik, Daniel. “The Fate of Culture in J. D. Unwin's Sex and Culture” in *Christian Apologetics*

Journal, Vol. 10:1 (Spring 2012). [web doc; The Link Between Societal Success and Sexual Restraint: A Look at J. D. Unwin : Family Action Council of Tennessee. <https://factn.org/societal-success-and-sexual-restraint-j-d-unwin/> ]

Malinowski, Bronislaw [1962]. *Sex, Culture and Myth*. Harcourt, Brace & World:NY.

Packard, Vance. [1968] *The Sexual Wilderness*. Longmans: NY.

Pinker, Steven. [1997] *How the Mind Works*. W.W. Norton & Co. :NY.

Popenoe, David. [1996] *Life Without Father: New Evidence, Fatherhood and Marriage are Indispensable for Good of Children and Society*. The Free Press: NY.



Figure 1: Igor and Mike discuss the finer points of oil exploration in the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Kansas Oil Museum.

## Emotions in Motion. An ape evolves.



If man ever aspires to survive as a species, what it means to be a human must be redefined on the most basic level. Most Humans blindly choose to deny that they are simply another flavor of ape. Like the other animals, they are simply slaves to their instinctive emotional responses.

I am not denying the existence of higher-level emotional dampening mechanisms such as learned impulse control. Modifying one's actions through logic and rationality is not of primary importance when it comes to mediating behavior. Instinct is paramount. Restraint is a characteristic difficult or impossible for the average person to attain.

Soon there will be technologies and potential dangers that will make hydrogen bombs look like fireworks. Should we, the spawn of primates be at the helm of future technologies that they can neither control nor even completely understand?

Only a corporeal and salient Neo-God can hope to safely wield God-like powers and technologies, certainly not a creature as flawed and simplistic as the human of today. Remember the basic concept that a God is any creature with toys more sophisticated and advanced than our own. Granted that does set the bar rather low.

I proffer a simple analogy to the AA five-step program.

The first step is always to admit that you have a problem. In other words, the populous is instilled with the undeniable fact that they are seriously flawed and will behave as primitives and savages if allowed to develop in the occidental ways. They will be indoctrinated in rational and analytical reasoning and will understand that intellect is the highest state

attainable. The animals of today must transform into the neo-sentient beings of tomorrow.

The second step is to inculcate self-discipline and the ability to weather hardship, pain and adversity. Just because life in a future utopian society will be safe, easy and full of pleasures, we will not allow ourselves to decay into softness, laziness and ignorance.

The third step is for the Human to come to grips with their own innate limitations. We all want to be smart, gorgeous, rich and have a killer body, even to be famous and revered. Chances for such are extremely thin and almost everyone needs to accept the fact that they are simply a number and are in no stretch of the imagination special in any way. Be realistic, be at peace and go with the probabilities.

Fourth, eugenics is not only justified and moral, but is an utter requisite to the survival of Mankind. The genetically superior must be encouraged to procreate, and in fact should be subsidized to do so in the interest of our species future. We will attempt to breed the human out of the humans.

Finally, a select group of genetically superior geniuses must be segregated from common society and be reared and conditioned to be the future saviors of our child race. The old Gods were originally created in our own image, to calm our fears and assuage our ignorance. Man must now strive to recreate himself as a superior being, to finally become the master of his fate and future.

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*Figure 2: Some members hearing oil well stories from a volunteer at the museum. He even fired up both a rotary and old fashion impact drilling rig for our edification and entertainment.*



# The Wilderness Hiker How To See The World

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Here was a man who now for the first time found himself looking into the eyes of death--who was passing through one of those rare moments of experience when we feel the truth of a commonplace, which is as different from what we call knowing it, as the vision of waters upon the earth is different from the delirious vision of the water which cannot be had to cool the burning tongue.

When the commonplace 'We must all die' transforms itself suddenly into the acute consciousness 'I must die--and soon,' then death grapples us, and his fingers are cruel; afterwards, he may come to fold us in his arms as our mother did, and our last moment of dim earthly discerning may be like the first.

GEORGE ELIOT, *Middlemarch*

**Graphic © Christopher Trenary**



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