

Sunflower Seeds



Kansas Sunflower Mensa Virtual Meetings

Cut and paste the following address:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72081034487>

Every Saturday at 1:00 PM

Meeting ID: 720 8103 4487 Password: 8T0Jrt

February 2021, Volume – 49, Issue # 2

Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter

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For questions concerning Seeds contact the Acting Editor through the American Mensa website or through the Facebook page. Contact other officers through the American Mensa website.

Chapter's Official Web Sites

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

[lwww.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460](https://www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460)Sunflower Seeds

Submissions Guidelines

The Sunflower Seeds is published monthly. Quarterly there will be a larger newsletter with more articles. Submission deadline is the first of the month. Members in good standing may submit articles, puzzles, photography, etc. to the editor for publication. To submit an article for the newsletter send it to grandledge@hotmail.com

LocSec Corner - February 2021

Bill Barnett

Doing the Seeds is a real learning experience. Thank you to everyone for your encouragement.

Winter is here and I suspect we all have cabin fever and are looking forward to getting out in the spring. I know I have cabin fever and I get out some. Hopefully in a few months there will be enough people vaccinated that some of the Covid restrictions will be lifted. The group will return to meeting in person when the Covid restrictions are gone. I really miss the in person meetings. In spring we might return to the outdoor meetings at Bill Cather's place.

The group is looking for an editor. I enjoy it, but I am wearing too many hats. Contact me if you are interested.

The group has one proctor and is looking for another. It would be better to have three. Contact Dan Gollub if you are interested.

We are trying two new columns, an Education column and a Pig-Out column with Pig - Out locations and comments people have on local restaurants. Everyone can become one of the feared restaurant critics. Well maybe feared if a big newspaper is publishing, but have fun anyway.

Who can find all my typos in the last issue?

The March issue will be larger with more articles, so submit your articles.

- Bill

Heartland Mensa Region Seven

Rich Olcott

If you've been reading these columns for more than a year, you know that February is my least-favorite month – cold, dark, dreary. Other than it being my granddaughter's birth month, the best things about February are that it's short and it's almost March. This year is just a wee bit brighter, though. February 2021 will see the arrival of three robotic missions to Mars – the UAR Hope orbiter on the 9th, China's Tianwen lander/rover mid-month and NASA's Perseverance rover on the 18th. May all three execute successful missions and teach us more about Earth's rusty sister planet.

The other thing about February is that our Mensa Foundation Scholarship judges (bless them and our faithful Scholarship Chairs) are busily scoring every applicant's 550-word goal statement. It's not just about rhetoric, grammar, spelling and punctuation. The judges look for evidence of capability, determination and that all-important grit that scholars will need in tough times. We want to assure our donors (bless them, too) that they're supporting people who will graduate and make a difference.

I'll close this month by cribbing a few thoughts from my RVC predecessor Greg Kontz. In his prescient column four years ago (region7.us.mensa.org/members/docs-protected/RVCColumn02-2017.pdf) he compiled some good advice that applies even more to this year. Here are a few tidbits; the rest is worth reading, too:

· We all come from our own perspective, therefore our own perception, therefore our own reality. The fact that someone does not agree with you should not be surprising or infuriating. It does not mean that they're stupid, evil, or that they have an agenda. That's not to say it can't be one of those things – just means that you should not automatically assume it

is. Give that kind of leeway to them – then you can expect it for yourself.

· Concentrate on concepts – not people. Things that need to change, especially things involving large organizations, are changed when people start to think differently – not when individuals ‘win’ or ‘lose’ after a battle of wills. You also need to realize that concepts are pure things – human interpretation/implementation of them are not. You will occasionally be disappointed – doesn’t matter – keep trying.

· Don’t worry about ‘winning’ a conversation – worry about learning from it.

· The reason that I care about Mensa is because I love the conversations, and what I gain from them. Here’s a statement about Mensa in general: If there is to be only one place on the face of the earth where light is valued over heat, where sequential logic and the free exchange of ideas rule the day – it should be this place.

Amen, and thanks, Greg.

~~ Rich

The Pig-Out Column

Recommendations from the Head Pig, Mike Dickson:
Check with Mike (316-651-4707) to see if people are planning to go.
Some people are isolating until the virus is gone or they are vaccinated.
Changes will be published in upcoming Seeds.

April 3, 2021, 12:45pm

George’s French Bistro. 4618 E. Central, Wichita. 316-831-1325

May 1, 2021, 12:45pm

Bella Luna Café, 2132 N. Rock Rd., Wichita 316-634-0008

June 5, 2021, 12:45pm

N & J’s Café & Bakery, 5600 E. Lincoln St., Wichita 316-681-3975

July 3, 2021, 12:45pm

YaYa’s Euro Bistro, 8115 E. 21st St. North, Wichita 316-634-1000

August 7, 2021, 12:45pm

Il Vincino Wood Oven Pizza (and other cuisine) 4817 E. Douglas Ave.,
Wichita 316-612-7085

September 4, 2021, 12:45pm

P. F. Chang’s, 1401 Waterfront Pkwy, Wichita 316-634-2211

October 2, 2021, 12:45pm

LongHorn Steakhouse, 440 S. Towne East Mall Dr., Wichita
316-618-8681

November 6, 2021, 12:45pm

Café Bel Ami, 229 E. William St., Wichita 316-267-3433

December 4, 2021, 12:45pm

Cheddars Scratch Kitchen, 11711 E. 13th St. N., Wichita 316-688-0401

December 11, 2021

Christmas Party location to be determined later

Chang Mai, on S Hillside. I tried it with a girlfriend last week. Nah. Not worth a repeat. Not recommended by me. - Gracie

The Education Column

Margarita Barnett

Definition: Education is the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life.

The act or process of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills, as for a profession, a degree, level, or kind of schooling, a university education. The result produced by instruction, training, or study, to show one's education. The science or art of teaching, pedagogics.

www.dictionary.com

In our country we have many freedoms, and sometimes people do not appreciate what they have. They are blinded by selfishness without willing to give a chance to any change, improvement or opportunity to grow. We are stuck in what we want, how we want it, when we want it, and where we want it. We see it all over our nation, in all aspects of our life. Several years ago people were not so openly aggressive in their opinions about education as they are today.

Since the pandemic started, to be more exact March 2020, the government was forced to close everything. People had to suddenly stay at home with their family, finding what to do with themselves, creating ways to be entertained, and adjusting to new routines with their kids. Finding themselves trapped at home with their own children and not knowing how to work with them. Parents became overwhelmed with this new way of life. One of the concerns for parents was what to do with their own children, ??? When I heard from a friend that her daughter didn't know what to do with her kids all day long, I was astonished. A mother doesn't know how to deal, entertain, love and teach their own children?

I would enjoy having back that opportunity. I had the opportunity to stay at home and raise my son. There was always something to do, to see, to go, to read, to play, but in all that I was teaching my son lessons that no one else could teach him. Today, no matter where I go, I listen to people complaining about what teachers and school administrators are not doing right. People are always talking about what teachers should do, when, and at what time. I wonder if these people also tell their doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists, maintenance guys, and surgeons how to perform their jobs and surgery procedures. Parents and the public in general complain that online education is not working. My question is: How much do they know about education? How much do they know about education online? Do they have the right attitude to study online? Do they have the drive and motivation to

focus on it? and I can continue with my list of questions.

As an educator, I had studied and taken courses online. It saved me money on gasoline, turnpike trips, and food. I did not feel stressed out for time consumed in getting ready to go to the university, commuting, watching out for rude drivers, police rushing to catch the fast speeders, and finding the right parking space. The teacher sets her syllabus, rules, expectations and due dates. The rest is up to the student. Certainly this type of course may not work well for everybody due to their ADHD, habits, skills, level of responsibility, self drive, and goals. To me, it gives me more space to research and deepen more in the knowledge of the topic of study. My "code of life" is that I am not going to demand of others what I am not willing to give or do.

As an Educator I have been trained to teach my students online. The majority of teachers in the country have been training online and encouraged to take courses because someday all education may be online. We have heard from district schools that they are not using the textbook any longer. The use of I-pads and laptops has replaced paper and pencil.

Well, that day arrived on March 23rd, 2020 when some of the schools in the country and in the world were forced to practice what they had talked, and taught, what they had been prepared for.

to be continued.

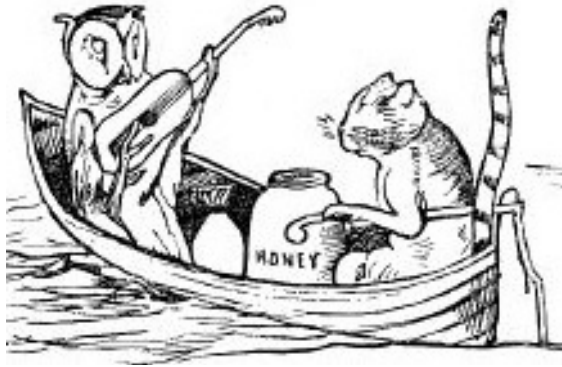
Your Covid Bucket List

Tired of being cooped up? Tired of having everything closed?

What is your Covid bucket list? What do you have planned for when we get out of Covid jail? I have mine planned. The best ideas will be published next month.

The Children Of The Owl and the Pussy-Cat

Saralyn McAfee Smith



This is from an unpublished and unfinished sequel to Edward Lear's famous poem, *The Owl and the Pussy-cat*. The unfinished poem was submitted by Gracie Ulrich in last month's *Seeds*.

Our mother was the Pussy-Cat, our father was the Owl,
And so we're partly little beasts and partly little fowl.
The brothers of our family have feathers and they hoot,
While all the sisters dress in fur and have long tails to boot.

We all believe that little mice
For food are singularly nice.

Our mother died long years ago; she was a lovely cat.
Her tail was five feet long and grey; what do you think of that?
In Sila Forest on the East of fair Calabria's shore,
She tumbled from a lofty tree----none ever saw her more.
Our owly father long was ill from sorrow and surprise,
But with the feathers of his tail, he wiped his weeping eyes.
And in the hollow of a tree in Sila's inmost maze,
We made a happy home for him, and there we pass our days

From Reggian Cosenza many owls about us flit
And bring us worldly news for which we never care a bit.
We watch the sun each morning rise, beyond Tarento's strait;
We go outside for picnics before it gets too late.
And when the evening shades begin to lengthen from the trees,
We roam so slowly, hand in hand, as sure as bees are bees.
We wander up and down the shore; we do not keep a score,
Or tumble over head and heels---no, never, never more.
We can see the far Gromboolian plains, though we don't feel so keen,
Nor weep as we could once have wept o'er many a vanished scene.
This is the way our father moans---he is so very green.

Our father still preserves his voice, and when he sees a star,
He often sings a lullaby to that original guitar.
We love our parents dearly, though our mother is no more,
And through the years, we'll shed some tears for those that we adore.

We have the pot which once did hold the honey on their boat,
But all the money has been spent, besides the 5-pound note.
The owls who come and bring us news are often keen for pay,
Because we take no interest in the politics of the day.
We pay them not, but we smile and offer them our hand,
For after all, they are the best; we know they understand.

Slightly Rewritten and Completed by Saralyn McAfee Smith, age 78
Dodge City, Kansas

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Kansas Sunflower Mensa
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