

Sunflower Seeds



Wichita on the River at Night

Zoom meetings on Saturdays at 4:00 PM

**April 2022, Volume – 50, Issue # 4
Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter**

Officers for 2022

LocSec: Bill Barnett 316-214-3330 grandledge@hotmail.com

Acting Editor: Bill Barnett

Asst. LocSec: Igor Ponomaryov

Treasurer: Igor Ponomaryov acting

Program Chair: Bill Barnett

Publication Chair: Gracie Ulrich

Membership Chair: Dan Gollub

Mem. at Large: James Zongker

Ombudsman: Mike Dickson

Region – 7 VC: Beth Anne Demeter bethane.demeter@gmail.com

Web Contact: Igor Ponomaryov

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

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

www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460SunflowerSeeds

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

Articles should be submitted as a WORD document or Mac Pages document. The font should be Times New Roman 12 pt.

Why You Should Write For Seeds

This is your newsletter. You are talented and can make it better. More participation strengthens the group. People have told the editor that they like the Seeds. If you feel that way it is time to write.

The Pig-Out Column

Pig-outs are an excellent to invite friends.



Recommendations from the Head Pig, Mike Dickson:

Check with Mike (316-871-3379) if you have suggestions or questions concerning the Pig-Outs.

May 7, 2022, 12:45 pm

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

June 4, 2022, 12:45 pm

BD's Mongolian Grill, 111 S Rock Rd, Wichita, KS 67207 (316) 202-7326

July 2, 2022, 12:45 pm

Vora Restaurant European, 3252 E Douglas Ave, Wichita, KS 67214 (316) 977-9277

Meeting Schedule

1st Saturday, May 7, 2022, 12:45pm - Pigout

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

2nd Saturday, May 14, 2022, 2:00 pm - Program Meeting

Fairmont Coffee Company, 3815 E 17th St N, Wichita, KS

Speaker to be announced.

3rd Saturday, May 21, 2022, 11:00 am

Cather Wildlife Refuge at 1199 Old Goat Ranch Road, Mulvane, Kansas. We have been there before. Go south out of Mulvane, turn left at the river, (you can't go any other way) turn right at the next county road, (kids stole the street sign) go to the end of the road, go through the gate and up to the old house near the gate. Try googling directions first. Call the editor ahead of time if you still need directions. Finding it is an IQ test. You score 85+ if you find it. It is on well maintained gravel county roads.

4th Saturday, May 28, 2022, 7:00 pm

Barnes and Noble Bookstore Cafe, 1920 N Rock Road, Wichita, KS

Zoom Meetings Saturdays at 4:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72081034487?pwd=aWdKUStzbEVhNktjRzF0VEYxQTlSQ09>

Igor Ponomaryov is the Zoom coordinator. Contact him or the editor for Zoom information.

LocSec Corner

Bill Barnett

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 me or Dan Gollub if you are interested.

Send your pictures to the editor along with their stories and they will be published here. You are talented and can be a writer for Seeds. Send your articles, letters, comments, and pictures for Seeds.

Heartland Mensa Region Seven

Beth Anne Demeter

As your Regional Vice Chair, my job involves sharing information, resources, answers, solutions, and more (sometimes even a shoulder to cry on) to local leaders. Here, I'll chat about one of those resources – monthly calls!

Each month I offer a call for local leaders, including Local Secretaries and Editors, along with their Assistants. We alternate the time each month between a weekend afternoon and a weekday night, to catch those folks who can't make one or the other. It seems to work pretty well! We seem to have a good crowd each month, with around 6-10 local leaders joining in. This isn't so bad and not so small a group as it seems, considering there are only 12 groups in the Region.

The topics we speak on each month are varied, but follow a standard format. I personally love to hear a quick status update from each of the attendees! This can include what's happening, how events have gone or were attended recently, what issues have occurred or are expected to occur, what's coming up and more. For instance, this month we chatted about how recent events have gone and it was wonderful to hear Mid-America Mensa's latest Theodore Talk had more than 150 registrants! A few groups have things coming up like hiking, dinners, mini golf, virtual Scrabble and more.

Personally, I add in information and perspective from National and the AMC. For example, and at the time of this writing, we breached 50,000 members! CultureQuest is about to happen, and several groups within the Region have teams registered. The AG is open for registration and I'm sure a schedule will be announced soon. I'm also always happy to take questions and issues back to our National team for answers that I share on the next call.

If you're interested in sharing thoughts on these calls, talk to your LocSec! Or, if you're interested in volunteering, there are always positions available for you to contribute to these great groups. Here's looking forward to the next call!

Mensa Financial Audit 2022

04/06/2022

Having examined the financial records of American Mensa Limited DBA Sunflower Mensa dated 09-01-2021 through 03-31-2022 I find them entirely in order.

My examination included their changing of banks beginning 09-13-2021, the payment of expenses to two members, and the funds received from American Mensa.

Randy C Hamilton

R C Hamilton Accounting

1308 26th Avenue

Canton, Kansas 67428

Item	Description	Trans/Bal	Amount	Statement
Balance on 11/30/2021	Account Closed, funds moved to Fidelity	B	-	BOA 11/30/2021
Balance on 11/30/2021		B	5,431.76	Fidelity 11/30/2021
Check # 2151 to Igor Ponomarev	Reimburse for cash expense re: Christmas Party at Yia-Yia's	T	(260.00)	Fidelity 12/31/2021
Check # 2152 to Bill Barnett	SEEDS publication Aug-Dec, 2021 at \$70 per issue	T	(350.00)	
Deposit from Natl Mensa	December 2021 regular recurring deposit	T	100.60	
Balance on 12/31/2021		B	4,922.36	Fidelity 12/31/2021
Deposit from Natl Mensa	January 2022 regular recurring deposit	T	98.60	Fidelity 01/31/2022
Balance on 01/31/2022		B	5,020.96	Fidelity 01/31/2022
Deposit from Natl Mensa	February 2022 regular recurring deposit	T	101.30	Fidelity 02/28/2022
Balance on 02/28/2022		B	5,122.26	Fidelity 02/28/2022
Deposit from Natl Mensa	March 2022 regular recurring deposit	T	101.15	Fidelity 03/31/2022
Deposit from Natl Mensa	Reimbursement (Partial) for Zoom Expense by group	T	115.94	
Balance on 03/31/2022		B	5,339.35	Fidelity 03/31/2022
Check # 2153 to Bill Barnett	Reimburse for SEEDS Jan, Feb, March	T	(161.14)	Cleared 4/5/22
Check # 2154 to Bill Barnett	Reimburse for ZOOM 3/21/2022-3/21/2023	T	(210.00)	Cleared 4/5/22
Deposit from Natl Mensa	April 2022 regular recurring deposit	T	104.00	Posted 4/12/22
Deposit from Natl Mensa	Additional compensation for Zoom Expenditures	T	45.20	Posted 4/12/22
Balance per online banking		B	5,117.41	As of 4/21/2022
Other outstanding checks and pending transactions: None to my knowledge				
New Signatories on Fidelity Account: Bill Barnett, George Hiss and Igor Ponomarev; no other (03/20/2022)				
George Hiss was provided with a "spare" ckeck book, starting check # 2101, unused (03/30/2022)				
Respectfully submitted:	Igor Ponomarev, Acting Treasurer	4/21/2022		

Introduction of Philosopher Alan Watts

Submitted by Gracie Ulrich

Introduction:

When I first read *The Book*, by Alan Watts, years ago, I had the vague sense of Alan Watt being a “big deal” voice in forming the entire underlying philosophy of the spiritual renewal that blew in from the East just before the Beatles began topping the charts. But when it first was published, I was more into James Baldwin than Alan Watts. Social equality and consciousness-raising and the Black civil rights movement in America, along with women’s liberation, seemed more burning issues than did serious philosophy. There were protesters and there were philosopher/meditators, and only a small amount of cross-over between the two. After all, how are you going to become upset enough about civil rights and civic issues if you’re pursuing union with the Divine? The two ways of being seemed to be somehow mutually exclusive. As luck, or possibly karma would have it, I actually did neither, as I was heavily involved in a fundamentalist Christian Biblical studies cult at the time.



The Book: On the Taboo Against Knowing Who You Are, first published in 1966, was known as Alan Watts’ most definitive, most crucial, best-loved and best-known book. From that book came phrases and thoughts that have been endlessly repeated in the better-known New-Age philosophy books so popular today. Beyond that, Watts’ work builds on an entire body of ancient Zen Buddhist philosophy preceding it, and is therefore a kind of snapshot of the best and most cutting-edge Western work of the philosophy in the mid to latter 1900’s.

Alan Watts Biographical Sketch:

On the web site dedicated to his work, Alan Watts is described as developing an “audience of millions” through his books, tapes, radio, television, and public lectures. His books totaled 25, and his essential thesis of individuality and self-expression came from of translating Zen principles into Western thought. The biography states, “For more than forty years, Alan Watts earned a reputation as a foremost interpreter of Eastern philosophies for the West.”

Alan Watts was born January 6, 1915 in England. His mother was a Christian missionary in China. He trained to become an Anglican priest, and during that time he began to read books on the Far East. He became editor of the Buddhist Lodge quarterly, *The Middle Way*. He began writing books, got married and moved to New York in 1938. He continued writing, and studied at the Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and was ordained an Episcopalian priest in 1944. He continued writing books, and left the church as well as his first wife in 1951, remarried, and moved to California, to accept a teaching position at the Academy of Asian Studies in San Francisco, where he eventually became dean.

He held a Master's Degree in Theology from Sudbury-Western Theological Seminary and an Honorary DD from the University of Vermont in recognition of his work in the field of comparative religions. He held fellowships from Harvard University and the Bollingen Foundation. His television series *Eastern Wisdom and Modern Life* was aired on National Educational Television, and towards the end of his life he traveled widely (in the mid-60's) with his students in Japan, Burma, Ceylon, and India.

He read Bergson, Nietzsche, Havelock, Ellis, Jung, Bernard Shaw, and Eastern texts through the understandings of modern interpreters.

Whilst becoming perhaps the foremost authority on Eastern mysticism at the time, he also enjoyed his fascinations for archery, calligraphy, cooking, chanting, and dancing, and still was completely comfortable hiking alone in the wilderness.

Watts died in 1973, a naturalized American author and philosopher.

References:

Watts, Alan. *The book: On the taboo against knowing who you are*. Vintage Books, New York, 1972 (first pub. 1966).

<http://alanwatts.com> – Alan Watts : Library and Gallery.

<http://www.bookrags.com> – Alan Wilson Watts Biography.

Capriccio con poco Grazioso

Randy Noon

The story is continued in the printed Seeds. The full story is in last month's online Seeds.

Program Speakers

This is your group. You are talented and can make it better. Its time for you to speak to the group. Contact Bill Barnett with your topic.

Maarieda The Book

Bill Barnett

The short stories here are finished. They will be rewritten and expanded into a book. The crew will explore new planets sometime in the future. It's all about the future. Will we become a multi planet species? Or will we be a one planet species? How much time do we have left here on Earth?

Send the editor your photos for the next issue.

You are talented. Send a photo and a story.

Sunflower Seeds ©2021, Wichita, Kansas Sunflower Mensa, is received through the subscription portion of annual dues. Mensa is an international society of those who scored higher than 98% of the population on a standardized IQ test and is a 501(C)(4) not-for-profit organization with no religious or political affiliations. <http://www.us.mensa.org> Copying is prohibited without prior written permission of the editor. Material must be submitted to the editor by the first of the month to be published in the next month's newsletter.