

# *Sunflower Seeds*



**Wichita on the River at Night**

**Zoom meetings on Saturdays at 4:00 PM**

**February 2022, Volume – 50, Issue # 2  
Kansas Sunflower Mensa Newsletter**

## Officers for 2022

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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

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

[www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460SunflowerSeeds](http://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](mailto: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.

**March 5, 2022, 12:45 pm**

YaYa's Euro Bistro, 8115 E. 21st St. North, Wichita.

**April, 2 2022, 12:45 pm**

La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant, 1138 N Nelson Dr, Derby, KS 67037, (316) 927-2900

**May 7, 2022, 12:45 pm**

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

# Meeting Schedule

## **1st Saturday, March 5, 2022, 12:45pm - Pigout**

YaYa's Euro Bistro, 8115 E. 21st St. North, Wichita.

## **2nd Saturday, March 12, 2022, 2:00 pm - Program Meeting**

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

Doug Good will speak on magical thinking as applied in understanding critical thinking.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-scout-mindset-review-how-to-update-beliefs-11618355307>

## **3rd Saturday, March 19, 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, February 26, 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=aWdKUStzbEVhNktjRzF0VEYxQTISQT09>

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.

**Send the editor your photos for the next issue.**

You are talented. Send a photo and a story.

## 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?

# Heartland Mensa Region Seven

Beth Anne Demeter

When I took office in July last year, I started these columns with providing perspective on how an RVC can help local groups. Sometimes that answer is funding, other times it's leadership advice and even other times it's helping to resolve situations. I prefer giving money to start an RG than tackling a complaint any day!!!

In the middle of fun RGs and icky complaints is the leadership perspective. On the AMC – our national board – several of us recently started to consolidate leadership resources. One of these is an article by James Collins and is entitled “Building Your Company’s Vision”. It appeared in the Harvard Business Review in 1996, but the principles are still very important!

The article speaks to crafting a vision for an organization that's rooted in ideology. This ideology is the “glue that holds an organization together through time” and is relevant not just for American Mensa but also our local groups. When I was involved with another group years ago, the local leaders and I met to brainstorm values, ideas, goals, etc. We wanted to create a central purpose (this ideology that Collins talks about) that would drive our efforts, activities and more. Ours came down to three concepts:

- Rousing members through motivating speakers, participation, volunteerism, etc.
- Retaining members by expanding our reach, inviting better speakers and more.
- Recruiting members when we leave bookmarks at a library or increase testing.

Obviously, these ideas will change for your local group, but you can see how we wanted to create a culture of camaraderie and involvement. And our mission statement in the end set us up as a “welcoming organization that provides a framework for intelligent individuals to discover like-minded people and pursue common interests in order to build a social community.”

If you're interested in more information, reach out! I'm happy to send you a copy of the article or even help your group through a similar effort to create a vision and more. You can always reach me at [rvc7@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc7@us.mensa.org). See you soon!

## Cathryn Hay

Cathryn Hay is a member and gave a talk at a program meeting. Just thought this might be helpful to some members.



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**Cathryn A. Hay, Ph.D.**  
Clinic Director

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## Alternate Reality In The Swamp

Bill Barnet



Elk River Swamp, Kansas, Sony a7Sii, 24mm f/1.4, iso 200, 1/60 second

We see only a tiny part of the electromagnetic spectrum. Looking at the big picture of the world around us we see barely more than a bug. What if we could see more of the spectrum? Looking at the universe there are arguably more than 3 dimensions, we just see 3 of them. How would our world look to someone from a different star system? They might be living in a world of mostly infrared light or ultraviolet light or any other part of the spectrum. When we assume there are other intelligent beings out there we assume they would be like us. Even if they had the same base design their sight must be evolved to their spectrum and their environment. How would they see something if they traveled here? And how would things look to us on a planet orbiting a red dwarf star? Or blue giant? What would our world look like to someone viewing us from a different dimension? If they could?

If you want to travel there then let your imagination go and travel there in your mind. Creativity and new discovery do not come from seeing the same thing the same way. Exercise the imagination. What would the world around us look like if we saw it from different eyes or a different dimension. You don't need drugs. Only a free imagination.

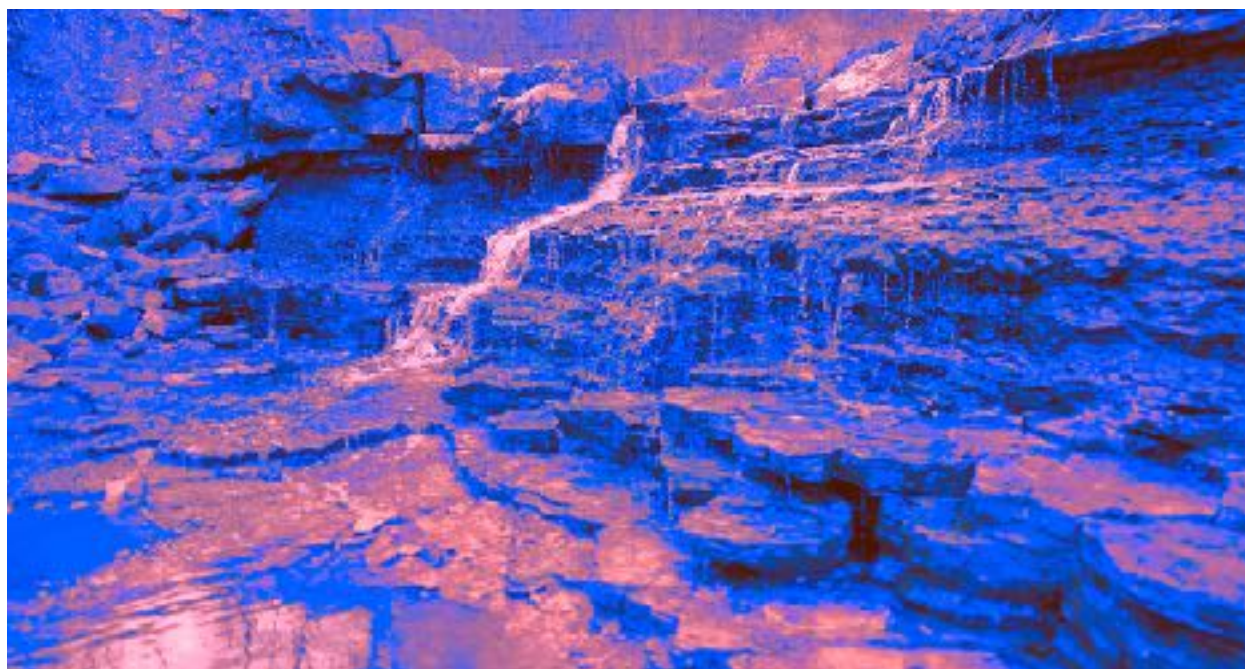


This is in a swamp in Kansas. There really are swamps there. It almost might be the deep south costal region except the trees are different. It seems magical being there, even in morning light. The backwaters of a flood control lake formed a swamp in the middle of a forest in the middle of a prairie. No one would think it could be there without going there. It is a hidden gem visited only by wildlife, a few fishermen, and the rare explorer.

The original photograph was color graded to take the dull looking raw file to a natural look. Then the colors were inverted and the brightness was inverted. It was beyond any more color grading after that.

## Visual Puzzle

What Is It? Can you guess what it is?  
Can you write a story about it?



# Riddles

Answers on page 15

What building has the most stories?

You're escaping a labyrinth, and there are three doors in front of you. The door on the left leads to a raging inferno. The door in the center leads to a deadly assassin. The door on the right leads to a lion that hasn't eaten in three months. Which door do you choose?

A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

Find out what makes the following number unique: 8,549,176,320.

If I am holding a bee, what do I have in my eye?

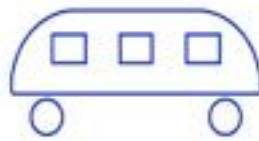
Turn me on my side and I am everything. Cut me in half and I am nothing. What am I?

You're in a dark room with a candle, a wood stove, and a gas lamp. You only have one match, so what do you light first?

If you have me, you want to share me. If you share me, you don't have me. What am I?

When the day after tomorrow is yesterday, today will be as far from Wednesday as today was from Wednesday when the day before yesterday was tomorrow. What is the day after this day?

In which direction is the bus traveling?



A blind beggar had a brother who died. What relation was the blind beggar to the brother who died?

# Book Burning

Bill Barnett



Contemporary book burning from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Thousands of books smolder in a huge bonfire as Germans give the Nazi salute during the wave of book-burnings that spread throughout Germany.

Book burning is the deliberate destruction by fire of books or other written materials, usually carried out in a public context. The burning of books represents an element of censorship and usually proceeds from a cultural, religious, or political opposition to the materials in question.

In some cases, the destroyed works are irreplaceable and their burning constitutes a severe loss to cultural heritage. Examples include the burning of books and burying of scholars under China's Qin Dynasty (213–210 BCE), the obliteration of the Library of Baghdad (1258), the destruction of Aztec codices by Itzcoatl (1430s), the burning of Maya codices on the order of bishop Diego de Landa (1562), and the burning of Jaffna Public Library in Sri Lanka (1981).

In other cases, such as the Nazi book burnings, copies of the destroyed books survive, but the instance of book burning becomes emblematic of a harsh and oppressive regime which is seeking to censor or silence some aspect of prevailing culture.

Book burning can be an act of contempt for the book's contents or author, and the act is intended to draw wider public attention to this opinion.

Art destruction is related to book burning, both because it might have similar cultural, religious, or political connotations, and because in various historical cases, books and artworks were destroyed at the same time.

In modern times, other forms of media, such as phonograph records, video tapes, and CDs have also been burned, shredded, or crushed.

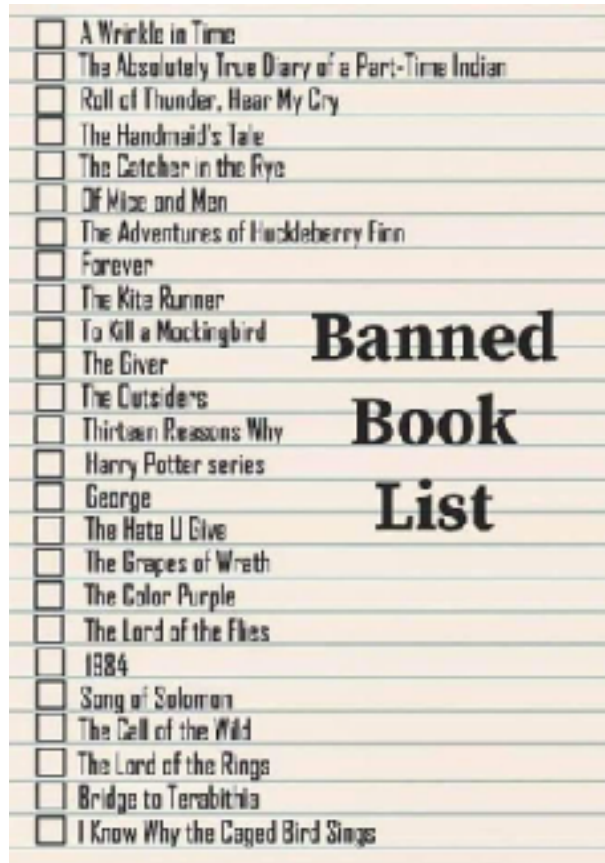
When the burning is widespread and systematic, destruction of books and media can become a significant component of cultural genocide.

There is a long history of book burning. Wikipedia has a good summary of book burnings throughout history. It can get close to home. When Wichita built a new library it did not have enough shelves to hold all the books they had, so many were simply thrown away. It was said: 'Why warehouse books?'

How much important history has been lost?

# Banned Books

by Bill Barnett



Schools are banning books. Goddard, Kansas decided to ban 30 books and then reversed its position. Hays Post <https://hayspost.com/posts/12798283-2ab0-4e07-929a-f7d109e65d4f> It is happening all over the country. There is nothing new about it.

Who says a book is bad? Should we read bad books? Should books be banned? Can any good come out of a bad book?

The news is full of current book bans. Books that were okay yesterday are not okay today. They are bad. Public schools are banning books. An argument can be made that small children can't understand abstract ideas and some books would only confuse them. But what about high school? What about high school seniors?

How can we learn about the bad events in history if we don't have the books that describe the events and ideas that promoted the events. The Nazis wrote books with ideas that people today think are abhorrent. Should they be banned so no one can learn and do what they taught. Should

we keep them so we can learn how to recognize when someone is doing the same kind of thing again?

Mark Twain wrote the books Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Fin. They are full of racial words that are rejected by the public today. Should they be kept to learn history and the culture and sociology of the time? Is it right to judge people in history who used the common words of the time to describe people? Many had no ill will toward people of color. Some did. Its the same today.

What about books on how to do criminal activity? Is it better to have them in libraries and book stores so the public can be aware of the criminal mind? Or do we censor books hoping criminals will not learn from each other?

At what age should people be able to read any book?

You are invited to respond to the editor your thoughts on the idea.

## First Amendment Of The Constitution Of The United States

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

## Answers

What is it? a waterfall

Can you write a story? yes

What building has the most stories? a library

You're escaping a labyrinth, Lions can't survive for 3 months without food. That door is definitely the safest bet.

Crossing the river. the river was frozen!

8,549,176,320 It contains each single-digit number, zero through nine, in alphabetical order. Holding a bee. Beauty. This is a play on words. Ever heard 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder?' In this riddle, you're the bee-holder, with beauty in your eye.

Turn me on my side and I am everything. The number 8. Why? On its side, 8 looks like the infinity symbol. Cut that in half, and you have two zeroes.

You're in a dark room. What do you light first? the match!

If you have me, you want to share me. a secret!

When the day after tomorrow is yesterday, Thursday

In which direction is the bus traveling? The funny thing is, if you asked a child in elementary school, they'd likely get it right! Answer: it's going left, because you can't see the door.

A blind beggar had a brother who died. What relation was the blind beggar to the brother who died? "Brother" is not the answer. Answer: this puzzle is quite simple in reality, but those who hear it tend to make assumptions about gender, assuming that the beggar is a blind man. The answer, therefore, is that the blind beggar was the sister of her brother.

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