

Augusta, KS 67010

POB-151

Seeds Editor

Kansas Mensa Sunflower Seeds



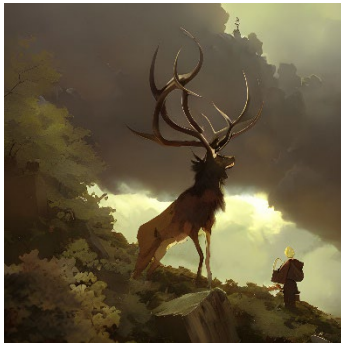
June-July 2023, Vol. - 51, Issue - 6

SATURDAY EVENTS

July 1st	Meet & Greet 12:45	Newport Grill 1900 N Rock RD www.newportgrill.com
July 8th	Group Meeting 2:00	Fairmount Coffee 3815 E 17 th ST N www.fairmountcoffee.com
July 17th	Group Field Trip 1:30	Maxwell Wildlife Refuge 2565 Pueblo Rd, Canton www.maxwellwildliferefuge.com
July 22h	Group gathering 7:00	Barnes & Noble 1920 N Rock RD www.barnesandnoble.com
July 29th	Blue Moon gathering 12:45	1400 by Elderslie Wichita Art Museum www.wam.org
August 5th	Meet & Greet 12:45	Abuelo's Mexican 1413 N Waterfront Pkwy. www.abuelos.com

Field Trippin

This month we will be hitting the road again and exploring the area of the Smokey Hills, just South of Salina. We will make a slight detour on the way to the **Maxwell Wildlife Refuge** and stop by **Coronado Heights** near Lindsborg before heading East to our destination.



One of our members, Randy Hamilton, has invited us to visit him at his home in Canton. Since he lives close to the preserve, his knowledge of the area will be invaluable.

The **McPherson State Fishing Lake** on the West side of the refuge has several private and shady spots to hang out at or have a picnic. Fishing is of course also a popular option.

There is a nature trail and an observation tower, both of which are interesting. A herd of Elk and Bison roam the refuge freely and can often be photographed up close.

We plan to meet up at 11:30 in front of the **Chisholm Creek Nature Center** this time. The entrance is on 29th ST North, just West of Woodlawn. Extra seats are available for those who do not wish to drive. Feel free to bring some light munchies for a little picnic at the lake.

Sympathies

Our thoughts go out to our LocSec, William Barnett, on the loss of his long-time spouse, Margarita. Her presence at meetings and events will be missed.



Last Month's Field trip



We had a great time during our little excursion into the Flint Hills last month.

The trip was scenic if not a bit rushed. We got there at about 4:00, only to find out the park closed at 4:30.

I think that Igor took the pictures.

There was a lot to see and many winding paths to tread, but we endeavored to persevere.



RVC Region-7-Beth Anne Demeter

As I write this, it's almost time for the Annual Gathering! By the time you read this, we'll probably all be at the AG, or maybe even done with the event.

A lot will happen at this year's AG and there's a lot to look forward to! Personally, I'm not only participating as a member of the AMC, but also volunteering as co-chair for external speakers. That means I'll be on site, working, in meetings, greeting speakers, etc., which is kind of a lot! I'll have more updates for you on that in my next column.

For now, if any of those things sound interesting to you, please know there are soooo many ways to become involved in Mensa! While some people might voice the opinion that "there's nothing happening in my area" or "there are no events I like" or even "there's nothing to do", remember it's YOUR Mensa! You should be taking initiative to plan the event you want to see happen, make the reservation, announce the book club, go taste the wine, plan the games night and more.

Or, if you're more the doing type and not the planning or coordinating type, feel welcome to become involved as a volunteer! Obviously, I do a lot of volunteering and some of my jobs are more strategic while others are tactical. Meaning, some ways in which I engage with Mensa involves me simply showing up and doing a task. Some could be easy like helping put away games or mailing newsletters, or some are more complex like finding speakers for an event. Either way, I find it fun to be involved!

Importantly, when you do plan that event or want to find that volunteer assignment, one of the best places to look for more information is Mensa Connect. Yeah...I know, some folks find the reading and replying interface to be difficult. Personally, I don't find it difficult at all,

but I did find it a new thing to become used to using in the beginning! But outside of that hurdle, there's an absolute wealth of information on Mensa Connect about things happening in your area, ways to volunteer locally or nationally and more.

So check out the info and be in the know! Whether it's for the Annual Gathering or something you personally want to do in Mensa, there are a lot of ways to engage!

Mensa Survey Preliminary Results

By Gracie Ulrich

Thanks to all of you who have returned your survey, so far. Results are continuing to trickle in, so please don't be shy if you haven't yet returned your survey!

93 surveys were mailed or given out. 33 have been returned so far, a return rate of 35%, very respectable. To put it into perspective, mail surveys usually offer a poor rate or response of a mere 3% - 15%. An acceptable rate of response is 5% - 30%. Generally, anything above 25% is considered good. At 50%, it is an exceptionally strong response rate. So we are doing pretty well, because I know of two people who told me they were intending to get their surveys in, and there are sure to be others I don't know about, which will further increase the respectable rate for this survey.

Of those who responded, 2 were deceased. 2-3 were further than 50 miles away. About half a dozen are about an hour's drive, and several of them attend pretty regularly, in spite of the distance.

Of the suggested activities that people liked best, the top choices were as follows:

- Visit the planetarium at Lake Afton
- Canoeing on the Arkansas River
- Tour a winery
- Visit Belle Plain Arboretum

- Have a wine tasting evening
- Make pizzas and eat them (and we can certainly make one of them gluten free!)
- Murder Mystery evening
- Hiking at Lake Kanapolis
- Visit the Sedgwick Co. Zoo

Suggestions that were made by respondents:

- Dinosaur park, Derby
- Take a motorcycle trip
- Board/ card games, learn bridge
- Tour local NPR station
- Visit Hutchinson Cosmosphere Space Museum
- Tour underground tunnel at Ellinwood
- Learning to dowse
- Final Friday, as a group
- Knitting/crocheting
- Stratica Salt Mine in Hutchinson
- DOC-B29 in Wichita
- Fruhauf Uniforms
- Sunflower Shrimp Farm in Oxford
- Rolling Hills Zoo in Salina
- Wichita toy train museum
- Old Mill and Swedish Heritage Museum in Lindsborg
- Oz and Historical Society & Museum in Wamego
- Greyhound Museum in Abeline
- Biodiversity Inst. & Nat. Museum in Lawrence
- Sternberg Museum in Hays
- Candy Factory in Dexter

One person volunteered to speak on Vision, Strategy, and M & A.

Some people said they didn't come because they don't get a mailer (and therefore don't know when anything is), spouse doesn't like to come, no transportation, unwell, family member is very ill, they live too far away, or the meetings are boring.

Others mentioned that they didn't feel welcome, that the group was cliquish when they first came (even if it was 40 years ago, but they found other things to do meanwhile), that they don't know anyone, that this group does not make a special effort to welcome new members, and that 1 person completely and rudely dominated the conversation.

One asked if their spouse is invited to our group's activities, and the answer is yes.

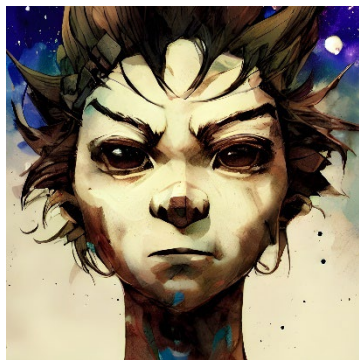
The Sunflower Seeds editor was praised (thank you Klaus for all your hard work!), especially by people who live out of town and rely on the Sunflower Seeds for their main contact with the local chapter.

It should be obvious that this summary has not listed comments in detail, but I believe this is adequate to convey the overall sense of the results.

Editor's note: Several of the places suggested to visit have been visited at least once by the group in the past. Just nit-picking, but I find it interesting that two deceased members replied.

The Three Wishes

By: William Barnett



There was a fine young man named Achmed who was due to inherit a majestic magical kingdom, but alas he received nothing. His elder brother usurped the throne and put a price on his head. His mother was the fairest milkmaid in the kingdom and the favorite concubine of the late great king, a man beloved by his subjects. Only his mother had been more loved. His elder brother's mother, an ill-tempered hideous old crone, had been the result of a forced marriage

that saved the kingdom from a civil war, or so it was said. In concern for the future welfare of the kingdom, his father had left the kingdom to the favored younger son in a will. The old crone found the will and destroyed it so that her son would inherit the kingdom. Her ill-willed son was even more disliked than she was. Together they oppressed their subjects with ever-increasing taxes and excessive police force. Only the mercenaries they hired from a foreign kingdom could keep the mob from revolting.

Achmed roamed the wasteland at the edge of the kingdom. There were many good fellows there who were outcasts as well. He made good friends but was never happy in his vanquished state. Only the condition of his subjects was more troubling than his poor estate. Olivia, a wise old fairy, had befriended him. Without her he would have perished in grief.

He and his good friends, a happy group of farmers, who enjoyed life despite their poverty, would play dominos with an elderly genie. Achmed enjoyed the domino games and always wondered about the genie's past. It was said that a genie could grant three wishes, but the farmers never wished for anything. Surely it must have been that the old genie had used up all his wishes long ago. One day he asked Olivia why the genie never gave the farmers any wishes.

"Because they are wise farmers," she answered him.

"But couldn't they get their wishes answered?" Achmed asked.

"Of course, they could, but there's no reason to ask. They have everything they want," Olivia replied. "They're happy."

"But they're so poor," Achmed argued: "Their clothes are rags. They live in tiny cottages. And they work so hard."

"Their cottages are full of love," Olivia explained. "Did you meet their wives?"

"They are in as poor an estate as the farmers," Achmed replied.

"It doesn't matter," the wise old fairy said. "They're in love."

Achmed gave up the conversation. Olivia just didn't understand. The next day he traveled to the pub in the village. It was a plain establishment, of an older construction, and sturdy while showing signs of wear, but filled with

a merry crowd. He sat down and ordered a pint to drown his sorrows. *If only I had a kingdom*, he wished to himself, and then ordered another pint. An odd old gentleman joined him. The gentleman was wearing the clothes of a prince, but they were even more threadbare and ragged than the farmer's clothes. For a time, they just stared at each other in silence. After they shared another pint together the odd gentleman asked, "Are you inquiring for a kingdom?"

"And how would you know things like that?" Achmed demanded.

"I know a lot of things," the odd gentleman said. "Your thoughts are even louder than your words, if a person listens to such things."

"Are you a prince?" Achmed demanded again.

"Right you are," the disheveled prince replied.

"Why are your clothes so ragged?" Achmed demanded a third time, showing his anguished temper.

"It's a long story," the impoverished traveler replied, as an angler about to set a hook in some trout. "But I know why your princely clothes are so worn."

"And how would you know that?" Achmed asked, as a fish about to take the bait.

"Why haven't you ever asked the genie for a wish?" the stranger asked.

"He doesn't have any left," Achmed answered, feeling insecure about what he had just said.

"He has plenty of them!" the odd gentleman exclaimed. "Just ask him for yourself!" And with that the gentleman disappeared.

On his way home Achmed stopped by Olivia's house. She was up late doing chores in her garden.

"Why didn't you tell me the genie still has wishes?" Achmed demanded of his friend.

"You don't need any," the loving fairy replied.

"What a fool I've been!" Achmed cried. "All this time I could have asked for my kingdom."

"You have a much better kingdom here," Olivia stated. "Everyone calls you prince."

After much debate Achmed went home to go to sleep, planning to visit the genie the first thing in the morning.

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

More movies that I love.

Howdy, **Randy C. Hamilton**, incurable romantic, movie nut, addicted to horsepower and lover of intelligent women, writing to you all again.

I have a three-hanky movie for you today. "The Art of Racing in The Rain" 2019, is a movie where the dog tells us about life and death, reincarnation, love, lies, tears, smiles, truth revealed, joy, and pain. We even have reincarnation (which has, of course, never been proven), but it is a cute part of the story line. These days they call the story line the arc, beats me...

I actually went to a theatre to see this (I prefer purchasing movies to get the sub-titles and the ability to pause and back up). It was so good that I, of course, bought it asap. This heart rending movie features Kevin Costner as the dog's voice. The dog is named Enzo, after Mr. Enzo Ferrari.

Watching the 1957 Ferrari Testarossa on the track is more than worth the price of admission. Filmed in Seattle, Canada, and Italy, this movie is based on a novel. The title was actually borrowed by the author from friend who wrote a pamphlet, long ago, to teach racing drivers. A quote "The car goes where your eyes go." e.g. You look at the wall and you hit the wall. Paraphrasing: NO dishonor in losing, dishonor is in not trying. It is a very well-done film with a "follow your dreams" story with pathos.

Come over and we'll watch it together, hankies provided.

A Bit of Humor

By: R. Klaus Trenary



When you dropped something on the floor as a young person, you just bent over and picked it up.

When you are old, you drop something and stare at it for a while, pondering if you really wanted it after all.

One sure way of determining if you are really old; fall down in front of a bunch of people.

If they laugh at you, then you are still young. If they panic, and run to help you up, then you are indeed old.

When you are dead, you do not know it. The pain and suffering are only felt by those around you.

The same thing happens when you are stupid!

When asked what they want to be when they grow up, most of the kids surveyed wanted to be doctors, lawyers, and business tycoons. Me, I replied that I simply want to retire as a lottery winner.

As a small child, whenever my parents would cuss in front of me, they would embarrassingly say, "pardon my French".

Imagine her surprise at the first day of school when the teacher asked if any of us students know any French.

I find it amusing that there is not one single canary living on the Canary Islands. I also find it interesting that on the Virgin Islands, it's the same thing. Not one damn canary there either!

I do not consider myself old. Only slightly out of warranty.



You never truly appreciate anything until it is gone. Toilet paper is one such example.

If you are really paying \$3.99 a bottle for "Smart Water". It aint working!

Everything in life happens for a reason. Often the reason is that you are stupid and make bad decisions.



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