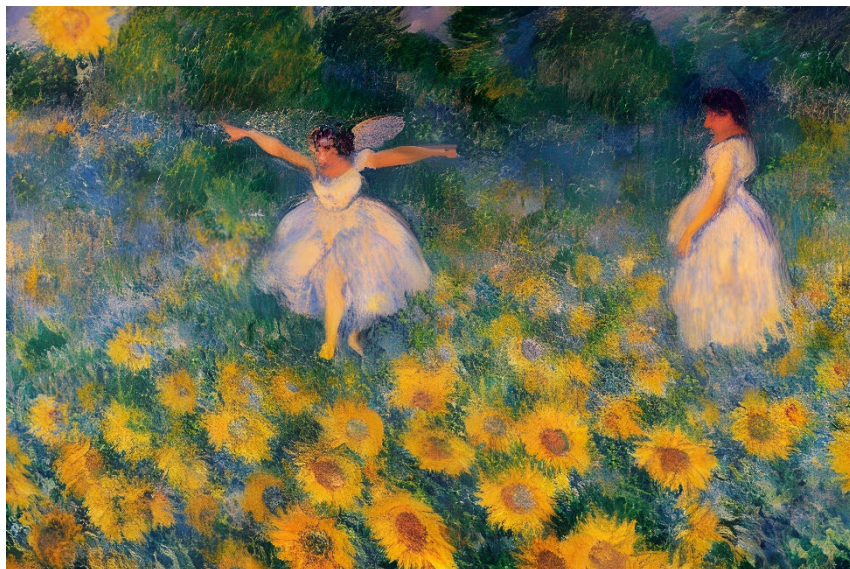


Augusta, KS 67010

POB-151

Seeds Editor

Kansas Mensa Sunflower Seeds

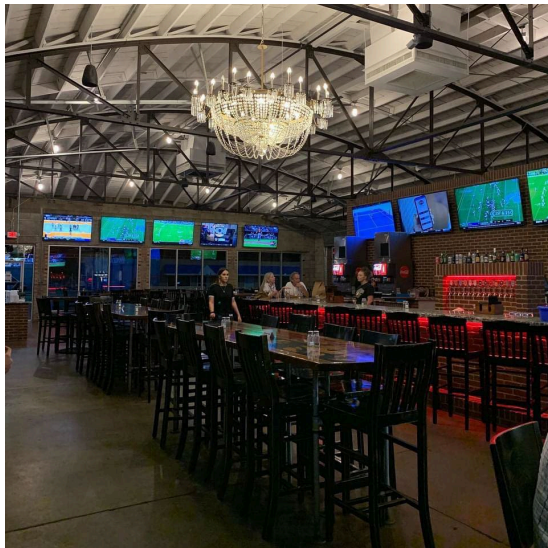


March - April 2023, Vol. - 51, Issue - 3

SATURDAY EVENTS

April 1st	Meet & Greet 12:45	B&C Barbecue 355 N Washington www.bbqwichita.com
April 8th	Group Meeting 2:00	Fairmount Coffee 3815 E 17 th ST N www.fairmountcoffee.com
April 15th	Group Field Trip 1:30	Great Plains Transportation Museum 700 E Douglas www.gptm.us
April 22nd	Group Gathering 7:00	Barnes & Noble 1920 N Rock RD www.barnesandnoble.com
April 29th	Blue Moon 5th Saturday 12:45	Art Museum - 1400 by Elderslie Cafe 1400 Museum DR https://wam.org
May 6th	Meet & Greet 12:45	First Mile Kitchen 2141 N Bradley Fair Pkwy #111 https://firstmilekitchen.com

Our First Ever Meet & Greet



Our group has met here before and everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the atmosphere.

Field Trippin



We toured the museum several years ago and had a great time. We will meet at 1:30 PM.

Proposed Future Meet & Greet

- May 6 12:45 First Mile Kitchen
2141 N. Bradley Fair Pkw.
- June 3 12:45 Larkspur Bistro and Grill
904 E. Douglas Ave.
- July 1 12:45 Newport Grill
1900 N. Rock Rd.
- July 29 12:45 1400 by Elderslie
1400 Museum Blvd.
- Aug. 5 12:45 Abuelo's Mexican Restaurant
1413 N. Waterfront Pky.
- Sept. 2 12:45 AVI Seabar & Chophouse
135 N. Waco
- Sept. 29 12:45 1400 by Elderslie
1400 Museum Blvd.
- Oct. 7 12:45 Albero Bistro
2684 N. Greenwich Rd. Ste 600
- Nov. 4 12:45 Lemongrass Thai Vietnamese Restaurant
300 N. Mead
- Dec. 2 12:45 Redrock Canyon Grill
1844 N. Rock Rd.

RVC Region-7 Column

Greetings, all!

During the monthly calls I share with local leaders, a few ideas came up recently from our friends in Boulder Mensa. It seems they run some wonderful events every month and I'd like to share their successes with you in case you want to replicate them for your group!

Boulder is not a huge group but they are a long-standing group with long history. The volunteers have been in office for many years and, in some cases, even decades! When it comes to their board, the volunteers are very open to sharing responsibilities and ideas with other volunteers. Even to the extent that, if another volunteer wants someone's position, volunteer in that position will graciously step aside and help the new volunteer come up to speed. It's a great way to not only help new volunteers succeed but also ensure the group places priority on succession planning.

Also, when it comes to the board level, Boulder shares volunteers with other groups. When another local group was indeed in need, Boulder stepped up to offer some of its long-standing volunteers to this other local group. For example, Boulder's membership officer has been in the role many years and has a lot of experience, not to mention ways of doing the job that make it easier. In the past, the membership officer has also stepped in to help other local groups by assuming another local group's membership duties for a few months, until other volunteers can be found. Consider it sort of an informal volunteer sharing program!

Additionally, when we speak to the more social aspects of a local group's events offering, Boulder has been doing a monthly dinner for decades. They combine it with trivia, asking a different member each month to write and bring trivia questions to the dinner. These trivia questions can be related to pop culture, current

events, or even the volunteer's profession, not that it matters since almost everything is of interest to Mensans! Who brings the trivia questions is up to who won trivia the previous month. But the winner of trivia is awarded (maybe a loose honor?) an amazing Viking helmet, which they must promise to bring back at the next dinner, along with the trivia questions. This ensures not only a fun time but also continuity of attendees at a dinner.

So, feel welcome to replicate these ideas in your group, especially if it helps you build up the events and leadership offerings for your members. And special thanks to Boulder for all that they do!

Beth Anne Demeter

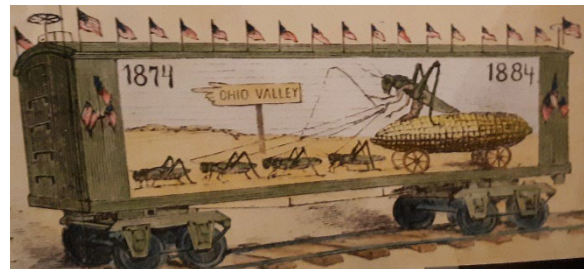


Figure 1: By Gracie Ulrich

Answers to Last Month's Riddles

- (1) The first electric stoplight to be installed in an American city was in Cleveland Ohio, in 1914. Mechanical stop warnings had existed for some time.
- (2) The first parking meter in America was installed on July 16th, 1935, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
- (3) Royce Hailey's Pig Stand was considered to first true drive-in when opened in Dallas, Texas, in 1921.
- (4) Considered as the first true filling station, it was opened on December 1st, 1919, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Minutes of the Meeting of Kansas Sunflower Mensa Executive Committee 03-05-2023

Present:

Gracie Ulrich, Publication Chair
Ted Saranchuk, Member at Large (elected)
Igor Ponomarev, Assistant Loc Sec (elected)
Susan Pung, Treasurer (elected)

Agenda:

1. Appointing non-elected members of the Board.
2. Approval of Gracie's invoice for hosting Christmas Party expenses.
3. Gracie's and George Hiss's initiative to survey KSM members. Approval of future expenditures.
4. Membership recruitment. Reaching out to AFB.
5. Zoom subscription renewal.
6. Renaming "pig-out" or leaving the name as is.
7. Approval of future expenditures related to member recruitment. Payment for lunch of qualifying persons as a subsidy to recruit them for membership or participation.
8. Adopting of a uniform policy for charging for advertising in Seeds.
9. Confirming the new members of Pigout Committee, n/k/a Meet and Greet Committee.
10. Discussing the issue with the posting date of Seeds.
11. New meeting time for every 3rd Saturday of the month.
12. Contacting new Muse management to reinstate our permanent reservation for every 5th Saturday of any month that happens to be.
13. Approval of prior minutes and actions of the Board.

A. Igor Ponomarev opened the meeting. The quorum requirement was met by the 3 elected Board Members being present. The following persons were proposed for the appointed positions on the Board:

1. Gracie, to continue as Publication Chair.
2. Bill Barnett to continue as Program Chair, subject to his consent.

3. Dan Gollub to continue as Recruitment and Testing Chair, subject to his consent.

All present elected Board Members (3) voted in favor; motion passed.

B. Gracie presented an invoice, attached hereto as an Exhibit, which she agreed to be in the amount of \$435.75 for hosting a Christmas Party for KSM Members and their significant others (spouses etc.). Igor Ponomarev proposed to approve paying from KSM Treasury funds to Gracie as agreed to by all parties. Gracie did not vote, motion passed by a majority of the 3 remaining Members.

C. Gracie and George Hiss were encouraged to finalize their survey of all KSM Members as to why most of them do not participate in meetings, and as to what we can do to make it easier for non-participating Members to attend. Board moved as follows: "If said survey is mailed, all mailing expenses shall be reimbursed by Board, including a postage-prepaid return envelope".

Motion passed unanimously. The Board expressed their gratitude to Gracie and George for their initiative.

D. Susan Pung proposed that there be a recruitment effort at the McConnel AFB by a person who would have access thereto. Ted Saranchuk agreed to contact Public Information Office of the AFB, subject to his ability to get access, with the purpose of advertising Mensa and recruiting members among the military.

E. Board was informed that Bill Barnett had previously agreed to discontinue Zoom subscription which he had maintained for the group. Board decided in favor of dropping this subscription and rely on the 40 minutes of free Zoom time, if available in the future. Current subscription is set to expire 03/22/2023.

F. It was suggested that for the purpose of recruiting new members "pig-out" parties can be renamed "Mensa Meet and Greet" parties, if only when any prospective members are present.

Ted suggested to keep the name as “Meet and Greet f/k/a pig-out” for the purpose of continuity, in mostly publications and announcements.

Motions carried unanimously.

G. It has been proposed that qualifying potential members and qualifying lapsed members shall benefit from a subsidy for their lunch in the amount of \$30.00 pp maximum, subject to the following:

a) A strict RSVP policy, which RSVP notices to be received by Igor Ponomarev.

b) Members who recently discontinued their membership (less than 3 years ago), as well as members and non-members who recently came to meetings (less than 2 years ago) will be excluded from subsidy.

c) Ted proposed that each qualifying person could invite one and only one guest, to benefit from the same subsidy.

d) Board shall adopt other restrictions, as well as waivers, later, as necessary to avoid inviting people who are not prospective Members/Attendees.

H. Igor proposed that there be a formal policy for charging members of KSM as well as nonmembers for placing advertising in Seeds. He proposed that Board adopt the exact policy as it is formulated by Klaus, Editor, in the issue of Seeds dated January-February 2023 and to strictly adhere to it.

Motion passed unanimously.

I. Besides Mike Dickson, Gracie and Klaus were designated as new members of the 3-member pigout committee, n/k/a Meet and Greet Committee. The Committee shall submit to Klaus 12 future pigout locations for publishing only 3 locations at a time, in advance.

J. Gracie moved to change the dating system of Seeds. There was no agreement on the issue among the Board members. The motion was tabled. Instead, Ted volunteered to talk to Klaus to change the dating system on a voluntary basis. Some Board members felt that the current system was adequate, as long as there was one issue of Seeds per month.

K. Board was informed that Klaus had proposed a new regular meeting time for every 3rd

Saturday of each month, at least for the excursion days organized by Klaus, to be at 1:30 pm instead of 11:00 am.

There was a motion to approve, which did not get enough support. Instead, the motion was tabled with a decision to follow up and consult other KSM members.

L. Gracie volunteered to work with Mike Dickson to re-instate our permanent reservation at the Muse café for every 5th Saturday, with the new Management.

M. Board encouraged future efforts to organize Christmas and other parties, subsidized by KSM, if they are for the purpose of bringing more participants to meetings.

N. Board approved all actions of outgoing board members carried out as a part of their duties, as well as the minutes of prior Meetings of the Board.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Igor Ponomarev.

Addendum – R. Klaus Trenary was appointed to, and reluctantly accepted the post of editor of the Sunflower Seeds.

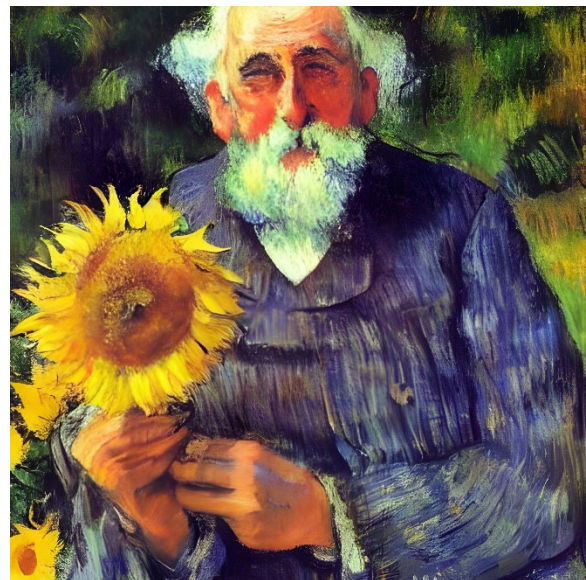
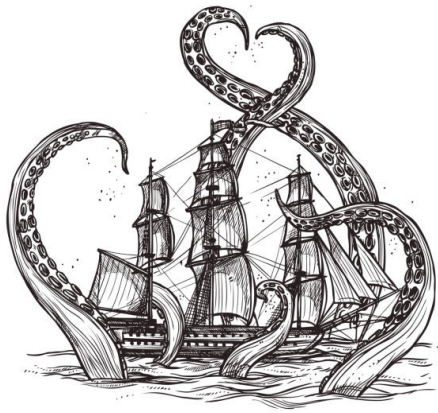


Figure 2: Contemplation on a Mensa Editor. By: Klaus Trenary



Beware the Kraken

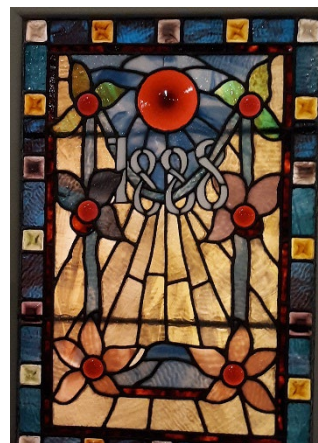
As told to Gracie Ulrich and edited by Ted Saranchuk

In days of old seafaring men greatly feared the fabled kraken. It was long thought that these stories were merely the exaggerated tales of sailors, who had been too long at sea. These tales told of being attacked at sea by these monsters that were depicted as a gigantic octopus. The kraken, giant squid, or colossal squid (first discovered in 1981), which were thought to be mythical or extinct have washed up on beaches throughout the world, and modern deep diving research submarines have had encounters with them. Early wooden seafaring ships were perhaps 65 to 125' long and 15 to 30' across. Most of the ships that have been attacked were in a storm, and probably appeared to look like a floundering whale from below. The squid eats whales that are up to 100' long. The colossal squid can be up to 45' long and weigh up to 1100# while the giant squid can be up to 66' long and weigh up to 605#. One can easily see how a beast this size could overwhelm a wooden ship, tearing at its hull with its beak, toppling masts, and crushing the hull with its powerful tentacles.

The giant squid feeds on large sea animals, such as the blue and sperm whales which have been found to have sucker marks, as well as bites taken out of them. The squid has a beak

like a parrot, allowing it to tear the flesh of its prey. A blue whale can be up to 100' long and weigh up to 150 tons and the sperm whale can be up to 80' long and weigh up to 55 tons. As a counterpoint the sperm whale finds the giant squid a tasty meal. This battle between the giant squid and sperm whale reminds me of something a survival school instructor said, "If you kill it – it's lunch: if it kills you – you're lunch". The mighty kraken does not hesitate to approach such behemoths for its dinner. The giant squid has amongst the largest eyes of any ocean creature because of the depth at which they normally live, up to 13,000'.

I once served on an older Navy destroyer escort constructed of metal. During one north Atlantic cruise a giant squid, or colossal squid, attacked the ship, and did superficial damage to the superstructure and made us top heavy, which in the storm we were in could have capsized the ship. A portion of the creature's tentacle was recovered by scientists. When a squid is killed or loses its tentacles, the suckers maintain suction. This is why the tentacle was able to be recovered. A tale told on board was that the cook attempted to prepare it for dinner, but it was too tough to eat. Later I found out that there had been other entries in naval ships logs over the years concerning encounters with kraken and modern naval vessels. © 2023



At the Museum, both By: Gracie

Woke Attack On Western Civilization Is Destroying Us

We are living in a challenging time. Our way of life, our freedom and prosperity, is being attacked both from within and without. The threat from our external enemies, such as Communism, is powerful, but it could well be argued that our internal threat is a greater danger.

For whatever reason, we have become increasingly distrustful, not only of one another – and our leaders in particular – but also of the institutions that have supported our freedom and prosperity for years.

Every great civilization throughout history has been driven by powerful ideas and fueled by an ongoing sense of purpose. Ours is no different. When this fuel runs low, one of three things will happen. 1) The fuel is renewed 2) An alternative fuel is found or 3) The civilization fades away.

The West is now clearly running low on fuel, and there seems to be nothing replacing it. For example: the rejection of virtually every tenet of Christianity has not led to its replacement by viable alternatives.

Is it surprising that our young people are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety and depression? They increasingly do not believe in the ability of our culture and the institutions that support it to give them a good life. They see themselves as being in a dying culture. Their parents have become divided and polarized, and see their fellow men, not as neighbors but as potential enemies. Marriage is becoming a temporary arrangement, rather than a lifetime commitment.

We need to do something about this. We must do more to save what we have built. Our democratic, free market, caring culture was one of the best created on this planet.

Condensed from the “Telegraph” article of March 23 by John Anderson

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/03/23/woke-culture-wars-deconstruct-western-values/>

Gracie Ulrich Quotes:

“Self-discipline is tough because I’m the boss of me, and that guy runs a loose ship.”

--Anon

“Logic only gives man what he needs. Magic gives him what he wants.”

Tom Robbins, in *Another Roadside Attraction*, copyright 1971

UNDERSTANDING OUR ENEMIES

In the last century America had two great enemies. They were Communism and Nazism. It seemed that almost everyone, including me, knows quite well what communism was.

The following 4 statements quite well describe it.



1) The government owns everything: factories, stores, farms, and apartment buildings.

2) They provide a job for everyone. There is no unemployment.

3) Everyone is paid about the same wage.

4) Education, health care and living accommodations are provided free, or nearly free, by the State.

However, when it comes to Nazism, it seems that no one knows what it stood for, only that it was bad. Strange. Over the years, I have tried



hard to find out what they believed, including how a successor to Hitler would be chosen, but with little success. Recently I found a small book, *The Program of the Party of Hitler*, which claimed to define Nazism. I bought it. The book was written in 1932, in German, and claims that Hitler himself commissioned it. Maybe I could acquire an understanding of them from that book.

The book was a translation. It seemed to be poorly written, and it took a couple of readings before I thought I understood it. In short, this is what it said the Nazi party intended to do.

PURPOSE

1] End the oppression of Germany by the winners of WWI. This means end payments to the winners and stop them from taking land from Germany. After that, Germany will be free to deal with other nations as it sees fit.

RACISM

2] Only racial Germans will be citizens of Germany. All citizens will have equal rights.

3] All foreigners, especially Jews, will be asked to leave the country.

GOVERNMENT

4] Nazism will be a dictatorship. Parliaments are a bad way to run a government. They easily become corrupt, and it is difficult to attach blame or credit for results.

5] Communism is an enemy.

6] Capitalism (in its original meaning of making money from money without working) is also an enemy. Collecting interest on loans is ruining the nation. Only labor is a legitimate method of earning money. (In this way, it was like communism.)

ECONOMY

7] Private property will be allowed. Most businesses will be privately owned and passed on by inheritance at death. (In this way it was different than Communism.)

8] Large and small businesses are encouraged, but monopolies which reduce competition are forbidden.

9] Farming will be promoted. Farmland can only be farmed by its owners.

CHARITY

10] Christianity of all varieties will be protected.

11] Help for the unemployed, old age assistance, education and health care will be provided.

CONQUEST

12] Land will be taken from the nations east of Germany (mostly the USSR) to provide more farmland, and to give additional room for the German people to live.

FUTURE

13] The purpose of Nazism is to stop the punishment of Germany and repair the damage which occurred in WWI. When that is achieved Nazism will be dissolved and some other form of government (such as a monarchy or a republic) will replace it. It is of no concern to the Nazis what that is.

The last item is particularly strange. They say that Nazism, unlike Communism or our own Constitutional Democracy, is not intended to be a continuing government. That may explain why I never could find what their plan was to pick a successor to Hitler. One would not be needed.

-anon

Randy C. Hamilton, Single Male, Mensan;
Seeks the company of a lady for pleasant
dinner conversations and various social
activities.

I attend Sunflower Mensa and am a corvette
nut since forever. Am a numberaholic,
embracing spreadsheets, math puzzles and
formulas. Very much enjoy reading.
BBA at WSU, career corporate accountant by
trade. Atheist since 14.

I love intelligent women, attending car shows,
collecting books and movies, humor, writing,
jigsaw puzzles and on occasion a cigar and a
drink. The picture is a recent one of me and my
daughter Sabrina at her wedding.

Call or text: (620) 242-3296



*Now her dreams are of better days past when she was young
and free. By: Klaus Trenary*



Fire Raccoon. By: Klaus Trenary

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The member subscription fee of \$5.00 is included in annual dues paid to Wichita Sunflower Mensa and American Mensa, Ltd.; other subscriptions for mailed version is \$36.00 per year (USA only) for 12 issues.

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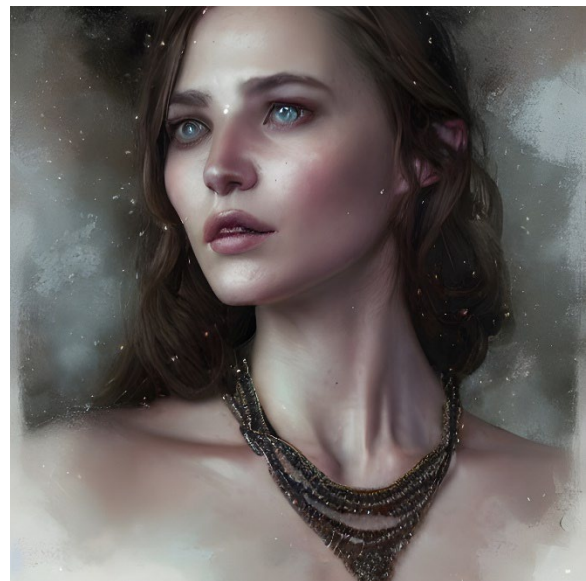


Figure 3: Ezmonik, priestess and daughter of the emperor, is a creation of the fantasy of Klaus Trenary. Oh, that she was real!