

Augusta, KS 67010

POB-151

Seeds Editor

Kansas Mensa Sunflower Seeds



May-June 2023, Vol. - 51, Issue - 5

SATURDAY EVENTS

June 3rd	Meet & Greet 12:45	Larkspur Bistro 904 E Douglas
June 10th	Group Meeting 2:00	Fairmount Coffee 3815 E 17 th ST N www.fairmountcoffee.com
June 17th	Group Field Trip 1:30	Tallgrass Prairie National Reserve www.nps.gov/tapr/index.htm
June 24th	Group Gathering 7:00	Barnes & Noble 1920 N Rock RD www.barnesandnoble.com
July 1st	Meet & Greet 12:45	Newport Grill 1900 N Rock RD www.newportgrill.com
August 5th	Meet & Greet 12:45	Abuelo's Mexican 1413 N Waterfront Pkwy. www.abuelos.com

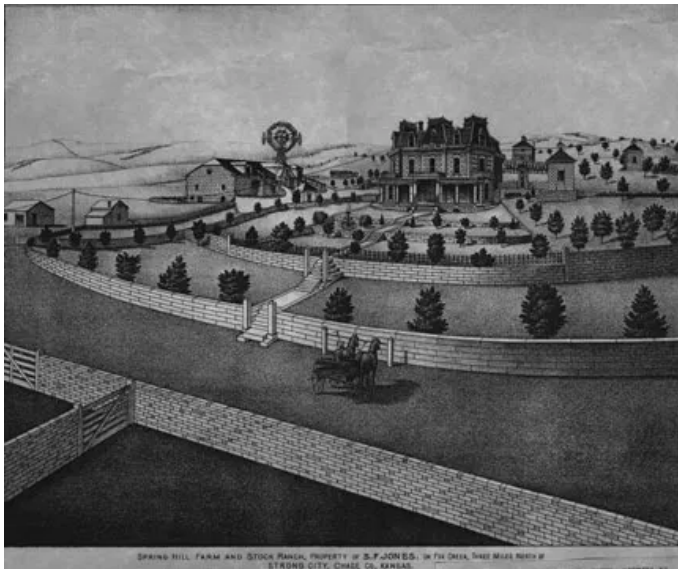
This month we will be hitting the road and exploring the wonderful Flint Hills region of Kansas as well as one of the more famous cattle ranches.

We will head out from Wichita, pass through the town of Eldorado and past the lake as we proceed North on highway 77.

After a scenic trip through the Flint Hills and past a few "ghost towns", we will arrive at the Park Service visitor center.



Field Trippin



Lithograph of the Spring Hill Farm and Stock Ranch built by Stephen F. Jones.

Kansas Atlas, 1887

*Front view of the limestone ranch house.
NPS Photo*

Although there are myriad things to do and see at this National Park, the highlight has to be the recently renovated ranch house, barn and outbuildings. Nature, wildlife and walking trails await those with wanderlust. This trip will be memorable and worth the drive.

I was there once, long before the place was fixed up. Even then it was quite impressive and ornate. The refrigeration and cooling technology of the era was interesting.

All attendees should meet up at Chisholm Park, the Oliver entrance at 1:30 to consolidate cars. Note: there are two parking areas at that entrance, and we will meet at the least crowded one. Bring your best Stetson and Tony Lamas.

RVC Region-7-Beth Anne Demeter

As we start into summer, a lot of groups are brainstorming ways to find new members, market, host activities and more! Not that any other time of year is bad for, say, board games... It's just that summer is a great time to be out!

That said, did you know a lot of groups are becoming very creative in their marketing to new members? For instance, MidAmerica Mensa did a super cool thing back in March – they attended the Kansas City Planet Comicon! They arranged for a booth alongside seven or eight other nonprofit organizations. These booths were located immediately outside the main entrance to the show, which means all show registrants had to pass the nonprofit booths on their way to everything else. The point of the booth was to market to folks who may share similar interest (i.e., comics) in hobbies that Mensans do. This Comicon is one of the largest in the country at over 40,000 people, so I have a feeling they found at least a few friends in common!

Whether your local group wants to target Comicon or something else local to your area, these shows aren't something you need to do alone! The national office has several resources and materials that you can request and/or print. For instance, you can request brochures, pencils, signs, and other swag, and print local group-specific information that will encourage potential new members to show up at a testing session. Also, keep in mind there are many other events outside of Comicon that you can target! Make sure to keep those science fiction conventions, fanfests, school science fairs, gaming conventions and more in mind!

And special thanks go out to MidAmerica Mensa's David Leavitt for putting forth the effort to arrange a Comicon booth, work with the national office on the best marketing, attending the show, and doing what it takes to grow his local group! Well done!



Death and Fear

Since I am "officially" a Senior Citizen and alone, my thoughts, as they always have. Anyway, turn to many things, especially when I am trying to get to sleep. One thought concerns death. I have known far, far too many people who are long since dead. This even includes over 25% of my High School graduating class. As a thinking person and an atheist, I see no evidence, no proof, nor any possibility of anything after your brain dies. Consciousness ends. Dead is dead. Mark Twain said it well, "I do not fear death, in view of the fact that I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it." He pushed himself to die on the day he chose, as did two of our Presidents, Adams and Jefferson, who forced themselves to survive until July the Fourth of the same year 1826! You can do interesting things like that. My Dad chose, it appears, to die on the same Day and the same Month as his dad, 31 years later. I choose to never die, I'll let you know how that works out...

At the recommendation of a fellow Mensan I am writing this expression of my concern, and fear (fear of missing out on stuff!!!, see below), brought to the forefront by these three true tales that I will share here. May you find it interesting; may you ponder.

Three people, who I knew personally, each for decades, died, as we all shall, but they died alone and their remains were not found for, literally, days! These three stories give me great pause (see below).

L. H. At 89, in 2006, her dying may not seem too horrible, but with her husband gone for 8 years she lived alone in the family home in my hometown. Two daughters, one 16 miles away and the others in another state, were the only family that I know of. The elder girl, upon not getting the phone answered, drove over and found her mom on the floor. Apparently deceased for days since the story around town was that she had "turned black." Who knows what, if anything, could have been done for her had she not lived alone.

C. T. At 63, in 1981, was a nice guy living in a mobile home park where he worked as a manager for the mobile home park during his "golden years." It was reported that he was found "in the middle of making breakfast" and "on the floor." Whether that same day or not, I don't remember. As I do remember his wife was definitely out of the picture (died or ?), and their two kids lived elsewhere. He and my dad had worked together for decades after he had asked my dad to "Come help out for a couple of days" in his Sheet Rock business. The "couple of days" was a great running joke between them. Our families had visited each other's homes many an evening back when people still did that, some sixty plus years ago. What if he had not lived alone?

H. C. Also at 63, in 2010, lived alone in the country and another guy was to come out to his farm to work on some project or other. He was laying on the sofa, fully dressed, and

stone cold. I heard no other details. His only child, a son, was basically estranged and his wife long since also estranged, as I remember. He was a hard worker in his own shop, the shop of the husband of L. H., and his farm his whole life. For the third time I wondered "IF?" If he had not lived alone what could have been done for him?

Therefore, due to these stories, here is my fear: being alone at the wrong time. These stories truly do "Give Me Great Pause," because I, now, for the first time ever in my life, while being older than two of these ex-neighbors, currently do, not of my choice, live alone. I never thought that being alone could or would ever happen to me. I have no relatives close by and we seldom speak. My few neighbors here in the country are almost never seen. Some I don't even know and the others I have only a passing acquaintance with anyway.

I am in good to great health, only one stay in a hospital in my entire life, never even so much as a broken bone, and no other health problems, but yet I wonder. I keep my cell phone on me or on my nightstand at all times (some people I know refuse to keep the phone in the bedroom at night, I don't know why), but I wonder if that is sufficient. Yes, I know that they sell those beeper things that you can wear, but my research on those is, at best, mixed as to their effectiveness.



Therefore, I try to process my fear by ignoring it and trying to take good care of myself with weight control, a bit of exercise, and many supplements. That is, I persevere, and I do my research on being vital, however, "You Never Know" as I'm sure that my three friends "Never Knew" what awaited them or if their lives could have been longer. Curiosity drives me. I plan on living many more decades because of my curiosity of the one and only world/universe that we have, including the billions of things that I may still learn, movies to watch, books to read, horsepower to enjoy, and interesting people to interact with. The missing out on years and years of these things, when perhaps it could be prevented, is my fear. The scientific advances in my lifetime are so overwhelming that, curious me, I wonder what may be "coming down the pike."

Jet airplanes were born just before me and now we have the knowledge of the world available on our computers and cell phones (electric cars are still shit and need loads of work to be truly viable so I don't count those).

Not meaning to be a downer to you all, I'm just concerned and, hopefully for no tangible reason, "afraid" of missing some thousands of wonderful things, like new gadgets, scientific knowledge, and interesting people, just because of my being alone at the wrong time.

All the Best,

Randy C. Hamilton



WOKE REPLY

Gracie Ulrich responded to the recent article in the SEEDS about the damage that the so-called "Woke" philosophy is doing to our nation. One thing she states is that John Anderson (the author) says Christianity has been largely rejected but does not give examples of that. She also points out that most official Christian doctrines do not relate to social values, but rather dogmas like the virgin birth, the trinity, or heaven and hell. These are good points.

She did mention that a previous edition of the SEEDS had an article defining Communism and Nazism. She apparently thinks she has defined Christianity. At any rate, she says that concise definitions of ideologies are a good idea. Anderson did not do that. I agree.

I will come to John Anderson's defense by defining what Christian principles he may have thought are being flushed. Here are a few:

1. Marriage is for life.
2. Unmarried couples should not live together.
3. Abortions should not happen.
4. Women should stay home and have children, not work.
5. Races should not intermarry.
6. It is O.K. to express non-conventional beliefs.
7. LGBTQ actions are not acceptable.
8. Guns are legitimate.
9. We should support the police.
10. Whites are not necessarily immoral.

Although these may not be official Christian doctrines, most Christians believe them. The New Left Wing is trying to destroy them all. I agree with John, but he could have been more concise.

ANONYMOUS

Who says God has no sense of humor?

A Mensan is going through a rough spot in his life. His business isn't doing well, he's got a bunch of kids to feed, and his wife is pressuring him.

Every morning, he goes to church and prays, "Please, God, let me win the lottery. Nothing else can fix my life like winning the lottery." Morning after morning after morning he prays, "Please, God, let me win the lottery!"

Finally, he receives an answer. In the middle of his prayers, God speaks to him and says, "Meet me halfway. Buy a ticket!"

Sharon had a heart attack and was rushed to the hospital. While she's on the operating table, her heart stops and her soul departs from her body. Sharon appears before God and asks, "God, is that it?" God answers, "No, you have another 30 years to go, Sharon. Enjoy your life."

Back in the operating room, she decides to make the most of her time there: tummy tuck, liposuction, breast augmentation, the whole thing.

When Sharon leaves the hospital, she steps out into the street, gets hit a car and is killed instantly. When she comes before God, she says, "You told me I had another 30 years. Why didn't you save me?"

God says, "Sharon, I didn't recognize you."

An old man enters a church and goes to confession. The priest slides back the window and the old man says, "Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned. I'm 80 years old and earlier this week I was walking home from the library when a car pulled up with two young ladies in it. They asked me if I'd like to have a good time. I

said sure, so they came into my apartment and for the next two nights, Wow!

"I see," says the priest. "Tell me, when was the last time you made a confession?"

"Oh, this is my first time, Father." I am an atheist.

"Well, in that case, why are you telling me all this?"

"I'm telling everybody!"

A poor man talks to God while walking through a forest. He asks God, "What is a million years like for you?"

"My son, for me a million years is like a second."

"God, what is a million dollars to you?"

"My son, a million dollars means nothing to me."

"So God, can I have a million dollars?"

"In a second," God says.

A priest and a rabbi are flying when the plane experiences heavy turbulence. The pilot announces that everybody should brace for a water landing. In the midst of the ensuing panic, the priest is surprised to see the rabbi make the sign of the cross.

The plane landed safely in the Atlantic Ocean. As they wait on the raft to be rescued, the priest turns to the rabbi, and says. "I noticed you made the sign of the cross at 20,000 feet. Perhaps it was your conversion that saved us from destruction!"

"I doubt it was that, since I didn't convert. I was just making my usual check to see if everything important was in place: spectacles, testicles, wallet, and cigars."

Schinderhannes, a famous German “Robin Hood”

As a small child growing up in the town of Simmern in southern Germany, I paid little attention to the fact that we lived only a few blocks from a historical structure, once the abode of a famous medieval “Robin Hood” type character. I had heard the name Schinderhannes before but was too young to care much about history and legend.

Schinderhannes was viewed as a folk hero, by flouting the law and the authorities, and living by his own wits. He repeatedly escaped capture and humiliated the hated French who occupied parts of Germany at the time, much to the joy of the resident peasantry.



The outlaw Schinderhannes was born Johannes Buckler in 1778, in the small town of Miehlen. Little is known about his childhood, but he turned to crime at 16 when he stole some

hides from a tannery that he was apprenticing at. He was caught and arrested for the crime but managed to escape, fleeing into the countryside. To survive, he joined a gang and resorted to break-ins and armed robbery. The gang was active on both the French and Holy Roman Empire sides of the Rhine River.

After an extensive crime spree, including the theft of up to 40 cattle and horses, he was finally caught by the gendarmerie and tried. To avoid more drastic punishments, our hero confessed to all known crimes and was sentenced to imprisonment in the Simmern tower. This area was under French occupation, and the locals idealized anyone who would go against the authorities.

Much like Jessie James a hundred or so years later, a bandit and outlaw was viewed as a cult hero.

The tower itself was originally part of the medieval town defenses where it served as a powder store. In later times it was used as a jail and was considered escape-proof. A sympathetic guard at the tower managed to smuggle a knife into our prisoner, who promptly used it to remove a small window, allowing his escape. The news of the escape spread like wildfire among the area populous, which brought the status of folk hero to Schinderhannes.

He continued his old ways until his fame made him too much a target for the authorities to ignore. His days were numbered, and he knew it. Taking the name Jakob Schweikart, he crossed the Rhine and joined the ranks of the Austrian army. Because of vindictiveness or reward, a former accomplice turned Schinderhannes into the French authorities and he was again imprisoned.

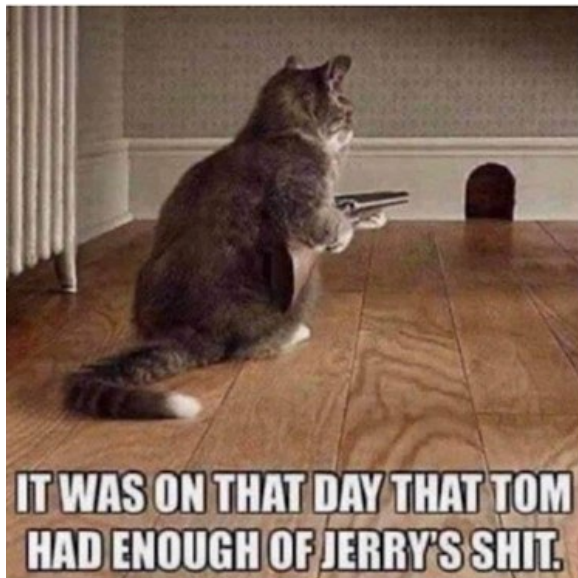


This time he was secured in the tower of Mainz, a more stern and formidable structure than those he had escaped from before.

Refusing to testify, our now broken hero was subject to one final test of his will. The authorities deemed that he and his gang must be made examples of, and any and all means were to be employed to achieve their downfall. The judge threatened that if Schinderhannes would not confess, his mistress, Juliana Blasius would be also charged and executed. He did capitulate and she was set free. Unfortunately, the deal to let him live was broken, and he was ultimately guillotined along with 19 of his gang on November 21, 1803.

Odd that popular culture then and now sometimes views those who may be violent or parasitic as heroes or even an empiricism to be copied. In reality, Schinderhannes was a brigand who stole from the rich, but gave nothing to the poor except perhaps the satisfaction of seeing their mutual overlords suffer just a little. The moral of the story, if there is one: Get all deals in writing and have a good lawyer.

R.Klaus Trenary



MASS MURDER EXPLANATION

Printed in Wichita Eagle, 06-01-2023

Editor:

There has been a strange increase in the number of mass murders in the United States lately. Why has this happened? Also, these murders are strange because most of them make no sense. Often the murderer, himself, is killed, or at least arrested. I. E., he pays a heavy price, and seems to gain nothing.

I offer an unusual explanation as to who is behind these events. It is the anti-gun people. Let us notice. What is the main message the media usually gives us when one of these events happens. Is it that we need more policemen? No.

Usually it is that guns, especially machine guns, be outlawed. Well, that might slow things down a bit if criminals would obey that law. But probably, only the law-abiding citizens would conform. Actually, if we were attacked, those people might be an important part of our defense.

Wait. Maybe that is it. Perhaps there is a group that hopes someday to control us, and they don't want any opposition. It would clearly be in their interests to disarm us. Then we could not resist. Could it be that they also largely control the media?

Anon – Mensa Member





Gracie Ulrich favorite 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



2023 Officers of Kansas Sunflower Mensa:

LocSec: Bill Barnett, 316-214-3330,
locsec@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Asst. LocSec: Igor Ponomaryov,
asstlocsec@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Treasurer: Susan Pung,
treasurer@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Program Chair: ACTING- Bill Barnett,
programchair@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Publications Chair: Gracie Ulrich,
publications@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Editor, Seeds: R. Klaus Trenary,
editor@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Recruiting & Testing: Dan Gollub,
testing@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Associate Proctor: POSITION OPEN -
Member at Large: Ted Saranchuk,
memberatlarge@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Ombudsman: Mike Dickson,
ombudsman@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org
Region – 7 VC: Beth Anne Demeter,
bethane.demeter@gmail.com
American
Mensa Ltd.: 1-
888-294-8035
Chapter's Official Web Sites:
<https://www.kansassunflower.us.mensa.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/773587949355460/>

Sunflower Seeds ©2023, Wichita, Kansas Sunflower Mensa, is distributed to chapter members and other select individuals. It is the Official Publication of the Wichita Kansas Sunflower Mensa #670, published twelve times a year. Mailing address: POB-151, Augusta, KS 67010.

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.

Mensa is a non-profit international society whose sole requirement for qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any accepted standard tests, or by submission of properly certified prior evidence. <http://www.us.mensa.org>

All unsigned material published in the Sunflower Seeds is either created by the editorial staff or obtained from public domain.

Contributor copyright agreement and release: By submitting an original item for publication in *Sunflower Seeds*, the contributing writer, photographer, or artist indicates having read and agreed to the following. The copyright to creative material belongs to the originator, even when the publication is copyrighted by Kansas Sunflower Mensa. The originator grants a onetime license to Kansas Sunflower Mensa to publish the contributed item in one issue of *Sunflower Seeds*. The originator also grants a license to any other Mensa Local Group to republish the creative material, provided appropriate attribution in shown to both the originator and Kansas Sunflower Mensa. The recommended format is "By [originator name], reproduced from the *Sunflower Seeds* of Kansas Sunflower Mensa". However, if a copyright notice for the originator appears with the item, specific permission to reproduce the item must be obtained directly from the originator. It is the policy of Kansas Sunflower Mensa to publish items only when the original source of the material is known and the rights to reproduce it have been granted to Kansas Sunflower Mensa.

Contributions may be submitted at any time, but for publication in the next issue, it must be received by the 20th of the preceding month. All contributions must be signed but may be published anonymously or under a pseudonym. All material to be published must adhere to established and generally accepted criteria and submissions should conform to current MLA standards. The Editors have total discretion to reject or edit submissions and ads according to style, propriety, taste, and space requirements. Though the decisions of the Editors may on occasion seem capricious, they are always final.

Paid advertising is accepted on a space-available basis at \$40 per full page, \$25 per 1/2 page, \$15 per 1/4 page. All ads must be renewed prior to each month published. Rates are double for non-members.

NOTE: All opinions expressed herein are solely that of the editor and/or contributor unless otherwise specified, and in no way reflect the attitudes or opinions of other members of this chapter or of Mensa.

Editor: R. Klaus Trenary,
editor@kansassunflower.us.mensa.org or
shamanklaus@sbcglobal.net