

*Editor's Note:* Some members have suggested we have several of the latest program reports posted here rather than just the report of the last program. So...we have included the several past reports as well as the latest one.



## ***Program Report...by Andrea Miller*** **Law Talk**

Gregg Groves, an attorney in the firm of Lowther, Johnson, Joyner, Lowther, Cully & Housley, L.L.C., and host of the weekly radio show, *Law Talk*, at 2:00 p.m. on KWTO, 560 AM, presented our July program. He explained the ramifications of various legal issues and answered specific questions.

The issue of adverse possession was discussed first. Adverse possession occurs when, for example, fences separating neighbors' property are not built on the actual boundaries as determined by surveys, but substantially over the line in one direction or the other. One's property becomes one's neighbor's property if the fence has been in existence for 10 years. Gregg spoke of measures that could be taken to avoid adverse possession, while at the same time describing how some of those may not be foolproof. Generally, when one purchases a house, it is very important to get a survey and conduct title searches. Doing so often prevents significant problems later.

Gregg spoke of covenants not to compete, particularly for medical doctors and attorneys. He also touched on personal asset protection, vis-à-vis L.L.P.'s, and L.L.C.'s. The difference between invitees, licensees, and trespassers was explained in relation to premises liability. The high profile, high award situations that have resulted in calls for tort reform are unusual and not the norm at all, according to Gregg.

Parents may be liable for the actions of their children only to the extent of \$2,000, and then only if the children *and* parents are sued. Depending upon the age and history of the child, parents may, however, be liable for negligent entrustment.

Gregg discussed tenancy by entirety versus joint tenancy. In marriage, Missouri is an equitable property state, rather than a communal property state. In the event of divorce, the source of funds used in purchasing the property, whether it was entirely paid for before the marriage, and whose name it is in, are all considered to determine ownership.

Regarding automobile insurance, Gregg deems underinsured (in addition to uninsured) motorist coverage to be essential. Consumers need to understand what limits of underinsured coverage actually mean. To illustrate, he gave an example where a consumer has underinsured coverage of \$100,000, a loss of \$150,000, and the at-fault party has coverage of \$50,000. Most consumers would think that the total loss of \$150,000 is covered (at-fault party's coverage of \$50,000 plus consumer's coverage of \$100,000 equals \$150,000). This is not the case, however. In this example, the consumer's total loss of \$150,000 is not covered, only \$100,000 (the limits of the consumer's underinsured coverage) of the total loss is covered, regardless of the fact that the at-fault party's insurance covers \$50,000 of the loss.

When hiring a contractor, find someone who is bonded and insured, and then follow up by asking to actually see the policy or policies. An important additional step is to make a call to the insurance company to verify that the coverage is still in place.

He detailed possible percentages of garnishment of future earnings, whether annuities were judgment-proof, and the liability of doctors and other healthcare providers when a hospital is sued.

We appreciated Gregg's lively and informative talk and his gracious answers to our questions. If you were not at the meeting and have a question, you may call his radio show at 417-862-9977. (Please do not interpret anything in this report as legal advice.)



## **Program Report...by Andrea Miller**

# *Dream Interpretation*

Greg Brown, the Director of the School of Metaphysics in Springfield and Ben Wheatley, a teacher at the school, co-presented our fascinating June program, Dream Interpretation, with discussion of the Universal Language of the Mind. We were pleased to welcome them and their student, Jenn.

Why do we dream? What is its purpose? Most of our daily activities have a purpose, but we spend 1/4-1/3 of our time sleeping and dreaming. Those at the school have been studying dreams for over 30 years. During sleep, our five senses wane, yet we still continue sensory experiences in dreams. Each manufactured article around us—chairs, books, clothes--began as a pictured thought. Those at the school study how that process of forming thoughts, pictures in the mind, works. They posit that dreams help one understand one's self, thoughts, personality, and attitudes. Dreams are keys to gaining a deeper level of insight into whom one really is and in understanding the effects of one's attitudes upon oneself.

Interpreting dreams is intensely personal, and only the dreamer can truly discern how their dream applies to them. Yet a Universal Language of the Mind exists, and its archetypal symbols can be used as an aid in dream interpretation. These symbols are comprised of two parts. The physical part is the form in which it appears, such as a light. What does a light do? It allows one to see. Hence, the second part, function, indicates what the symbol means to oneself. A light represents awareness. The speakers indicated that various physical symbols could differ by locale, yet have the same function. A horse in the United States and its equivalent in India, an elephant, have the same function. Thus the two different symbols can both represent willpower.

Through dreaming, the subconscious gives one feedback about one's conscious thoughts and actions. Every dream is about the dreamer, regardless of others who might appear in it. Every dream also reveals how one has used one's mind in the previous day or two.

The speakers discussed lucid dreaming, which involves "waking up" during one's dream and taking control of it. Recurring dreams can indicate that one is using one's mind in the same way as when the dream previously occurred, or show that a significant attitude is still present years later, or, if one has a routine life, a recurring dream can demonstrate the need for a change. Nightmares announce that one is hurting oneself in some way. They reflect unproductive thoughts. Some dreams may appear frightening, but when put in proper perspective through interpretation, they can become uplifting. Dream interpretation requires a lot of honesty and self-reflection, as one may make self-discoveries of which one is not proud. However, the subconscious never makes revelations for which one does not already possess the tools to change, if necessary.

The speakers offered the following common symbols and interpretations: flying=freedom, eye/seeing=perception, glasses/sunglasses/foggy vision=need for more perception, hand=purpose of what one does, legs/running=accomplishing a lot, face=identity, babies=new ideas, naked=honesty, money=value (self-value), mud=confusion, cartoon character=imagination, water=conscious daily experiences, earth=subconscious mind, weapons=tools for change, bones=structure, death=change. If a woman/man dreams of a man/woman, it represents her/his unconscious self. The audience eagerly and openly shared their dreams and Greg and Ben interpreted them insightfully.

In order to make those eight hours of sleep more productive in one's life, begin recording dreams and interpreting them every day, and then apply the self-knowledge gained to waking life. To facilitate dream recall, place a pen and notebook by the bed. Say, "When I wake up in the morning, I'm going to write my

dreams down,” expect to do that, and even write down the date in the book already. Visualize waking and writing the dream down. It may take several days to a week of efforts every night to develop the ability. Even if only a single symbol out of the dream is recalled, it is important to write that down to demonstrate seriousness of intentions to the subconscious mind. Dreams are like getting a letter from your best friend. If you do not interpret it, it is comparable to not opening the letter. Every time one interprets a dream, one learns more about oneself.

Greg and Ben invite us to submit dreams, for which you will receive an interpretation, at [www.dreamschool.org](http://www.dreamschool.org). They also invited us to attend their free dramatic performances of the meeting of eight Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, which will be held throughout the summer and fall at the Peace Dome outside of Windyville, MO. For specific information, please call 417-345-8411, visit [www.peacedome.org](http://www.peacedome.org), or e-mail [peace@som.org](mailto:peace@som.org). They generously donated the book *The Dreamer's Dictionary* to Mensa. We were fascinated by their talk and will possibly be hearing from them on another topic in the future.



## **Program Report...by Andrea Miller**

### **The Agony and the Ecstasy: The Life of Michelangelo**

On May 21<sup>st</sup>, those gathered at Christ Church Unity were delighted to hear Nancy McShane of the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates present a slideshow and lecture on the renowned artist Michelangelo Buonarroti. Ms. McShane has given several lectures about Michelangelo, customarily known by his given name only.

Michelangelo was born on March 6, 1475 in Caprese, Tuscany, within the influence of Florence. His mother died when he was a mere six years old. This great loss colored his entire life and personality. It is said that the strikingly young faces in his depictions of the Virgin Mary represent the youthful face of his mother, prematurely taken to the grave. His brusque father discouraged his early interest in art by proclaiming that artists were laborers no better than shoemakers. Defying his father's wishes, Michelangelo took matters into his own hands and, at the age of 13, apprenticed himself to the painter Domenico Ghirlandaio. After a year, he departed to study sculpture, under the auspices of Lorenzo de' Medici.

Lorenzo the Magnificent was one of the earliest examples of a true "Renaissance man." His court in Florence attracted all manner of intellectuals – artists, architects, poets, scientists, and mathematicians. Lorenzo fostered a Neo-Platonic academy, and Michelangelo became steeped in its philosophical tenets. To further his drafting skills, Michelangelo skirted the Church's prohibition and arranged to study the anatomical structure of corpses.

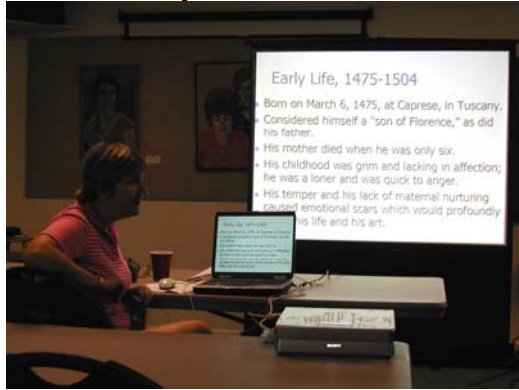
Michelangelo conceived of more projects than one human could have ever accomplished in several lifetimes. During his life of 89 years, he worked under the patronage of several popes. Considering himself preeminently a sculptor, it is ironic that he is perhaps best known for his painting. His rivals, the architect Bramante and the painter Raphael, encouraged Pope Julius II to commission Michelangelo paint frescos on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, believing the results would not compete with their own artistic ventures. The project, which began as an assignment to paint the 12 apostles, developed into a masterpiece comprised of over 400 figures, requiring four years of torturous labor to cover the 131 feet by 43 feet vault. Other well-known works include *The Last Judgment* fresco, and the sculptures *David*, *Moses*, and the *Pietà*.

Michelangelo's style, both in sculpting and in life, is known as *terribilità*. It describes the radiation of a dominating inner strength, the sense of a tremendous human volcano on the verge of explosion. Able to

visualize a sculpture's final form within a block of uncarved marble, Michelangelo viewed his task as a matter of removing the excess stone to release the figure concealed within. Possessing talent as an architect and engineer, Michelangelo's enduring legacy also encompasses a variety of edifices, including tombs, the Laurentian Library, and the dome of St. Peter's basilica.

We thank Ms. McShane for her excellent presentation, and we hope she will return to speak again in the future.

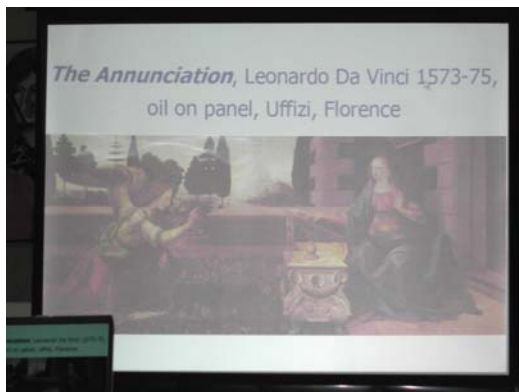
### Photo Gallery



One of Nancy's Slides



Nancy McShane



One of Da Vinci's Works



The Rapt Audience



## **Program Report...by Dennis Jones**

March 26, 2004

Numerous members gathered at Bob Schriefer's home for a program on Buddhism and to hear of some of Bob's experiences during his service in Vietnam.

We were treated to a professionally-done slide program produced by Bob and a wonderful spread was produced by his wife Karen.

Bob's presentation included the history of Buddhism and how it arose from Hinduism. He discussed its major philosophical tenets and the geographical areas where its influence is strongest. At the end of the presentation, Bob provided a large handout of the information he presented.

Both the program and the spread were greatly enjoyed by all those in attendance. Thanks Bob!

### Photo Gallery



Tom Johnson, Max Standley



Melody Berg, Andrea Miller



Bridgett Koenig, Max Standley (facing) and Maags MacLoch (on right)



David Berg; Andrea Miller; Guest, Lynette Gandl; John Knoderer (far right)



## ***Program Report...by Dennis Jones***

**February 28, 2004**

A number of us gathered at the home of Maryann Crosby to hear Carole Sass, a new MOM member in 2003, repeat the presentation that she gave in St. Paul at the AG last summer. Carole's presentation was entitled *Searching for Family Skeletons and Other Hidden Mysteries*.

For several years, Carole has been involved in genealogy. She shared with us some of the sources that she used for her research, and provided many forms that she uses in her own research. Those forms included the following:

1. A five-generation ancestor chart, which allows one to put information regarding birth dates and place, marriage date and place, and death date and place
2. A family group sheet, which allows one to enter complete data on a single family in regard to father's and mother's vital information and the information regarding children from the marriage
3. A list of questions that is valuable for interviewing relatives
4. A research journal that records the date of the material, the place that the material was found or resides, the objective of the material, and the results the material provided
5. A biographical outline of the life of an ancestor
6. A cemetery transaction form, on which one can record information from headstones

## 7. A seven generation family tree chart

Carole also provided the titles of several books that she has found to be particularly helpful in performing her research. They include: *Collecting Dead Relatives* and a reference guide to Genealogy/Local History Books in the Minnesota area (since that is where she performed her primary work). She indicated that many counties may have “heritage” books which provide the history of many families in the county, that the Church of Latter Day Saints is an excellent source for such research, and that many other churches’ confirmation records are helpful.

For those interested in starting research into their own family backgrounds, she said that the use of the Broderbund software *Family Tree Maker* could be very helpful.

Carole’s talk was truly fascinating. We thank her for the presentation, as well as Maryann for hosting the meeting.

### Photo Gallery



Elaine Johnson; Elaine’s sister, Wanda Coley; and Carole



Carole; Bridgett Koenig; Maryann’s sister, Bernice Mays, and Maryann



Elaine Deyo, Tom Johnson, Elaine Johnson



Andrea Miller, Bob Schriefer, Elaine Deyo



## **Program Report...**by Dennis Jones

January 24, 2004

**ABSINTHE: ITS WONDER, ITS DARK SIDE, ITS HISTORY**

On January 24<sup>th</sup> MOM members gathered at the home of Dennis Jones to hear Dr. James O'Brien, SMSU chemistry professor, give a talk on absinthe. It was truly fascinating. Many of you will remember Dr. O'Brien from his two previous outstanding MOM presentations: *Famous People Who Died of Mercury Poisoning* and *The Scientific Sherlock Holmes*.

Absinthe is a highly alcoholic beverage, having an alcohol content of 74 percent – beer, for comparison, has an alcohol content of about 5 percent. It is a bright green color and has a very bitter taste. It was usually consumed after having dripped water through pierced spoons – absinthe spoons – containing sugar cubes. The water would dissolve the sugar and then mix with the absinthe. If the absinthe was authentic, it would become opalescent.

The main attraction of the drink, however, was not its high alcohol content or taste. It was the hallucinogenic effects it provided; people became addicted to those effects. This came from one of its ingredients, artemisia absinthium (a variety of wormwood, which is not wood at all, but an herb). The active ingredient was the compound thujone. This compound existed in a concentration of 240 parts per million in the early days of absinthe. Today, in countries where it has not been banned, the thujone concentration in available absinthe ranges from zero to 100 ppm.

The chemical formula for thujone is C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O. The chemical structure of thujone is similar to THC, the active compound in marijuana, although thujone does not attach to the brain in the same way as THC. The chemical formula for thujone is C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O. The chemical structure of thujone is similar to THC, the active compound in marijuana, although thujone does not attach to the brain in the same way as THC.

The French family Pernod was involved in the production of absinthe and became wealthy as a result. The use of absinthe spread widely after the French-Algerian War in the 1840's. During that war, French soldiers were given a daily draft of the liquor – and became addicted. After the war, the soldiers returning to France continued their use of the beverage, and the general public followed suit.

In the 1850's the term absinthism was coined by doctors, who noted its effect on drinkers – hallucinations, tremors, convulsions, and paralysis. Many painters of the time drank absinthe and the theme showed up in their work. Manet, Monet, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Renoir all made works depicting the effects of absinthe. Manet's work *The Absinthe Drinker* was rejected by the Salon de Paris for depicting moral decay.

In 1876 Edgar Degas painted *L'Absinthe*, and it was called vulgar and ugly. It depicted “real people,” not street bums, in a state of stupor. By 1892 absinthe use was the rage of the day.

Over the years many painters and authors have used absinthe and have been the worse for it. Rimbaud died at age 39, Lautrec at 36, and Poe at age 40. Van Gogh, who died at age 37, had numerous health problems in his life. The effects of absinthe probably contributed to those problems.

Picasso was the last major painter to depict the use of absinthe. In 1901, in his blue period, he created paintings depicting the use of absinthe, such as *The Absinthe Drinker* and several others. He painted no absinthe themed works in his rose period, but did return to the theme in his cubist period. In 1911 he created the sculpted work, *Glass of Absinthe*.

The drink was banned in Belgium in 1905, in Switzerland in 1908, Holland in 1910, in the U.S. in 1912, and in France in 1915. It was never banned in England – its use never became as widespread there as in some other countries. It is still available today in many countries, but, as mentioned earlier, the concentration of thujone is much less than it was in the late 1800's and early 1900's. It is currently available in the Czech Republic, Portugal, and some other countries.

Absinthe was used in the 1920's as a means of inducing convulsions, similar to those created by electroshock therapy. Our thanks go out to Dr. O'Brien for a fascinating talk!

## Photo Album



Dr. O'Brien, Deb Course, Elsa Hazell,  
Tom Johnson, Bob Schriefer



Barbara O'Brien (background), Bob Schriefer,  
Andrea Miller, Tom Johnson



Dennis Presenting Certificate to Dr. O'Brien



Absinthe, The Real Thing



## Holiday Party...*By Elaine Johnson*

The holiday season is filled with gatherings of family and friends. Good friends gathered at Unity church in Springfield on December 5, 2003, to enjoy an evening meal, to visit, and to play a gift exchange game.

We feasted on Honeybaked ham and turkey, rolls, deviled eggs, and a variety of fruit and desserts.

The gift exchange game is always fun. We draw numbers to determine the order, then, in turn, players choose a present to open, or claim one that has already been opened. Sometimes it gets raucous, with several wanting the same gift. This time, we were quite civil, but couldn't pry out of anyone which gift they brought – except for Robert Schriefer. We decided his was the most “Mensa-apropos” gift. He brought a decoration (to hang on a door or in an entryway). It consists of three snowmen holding a sign saying, “All flakes welcome.” Mensans love puns!



We usually do not have a speaker at our holiday dinners, but this time we drafted one of our own to become just that. Dave Zapatka had just arrived in town from Phoenix, Arizona, and he shared details about the position he has recently taken with GCA Services. He is responsible for the facility maintenance



at 16 nuclear power plants across the country ranging from Diablo Canyon in California to Crystal River in Florida to Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania to Fermi in Michigan. The plant that is closest to Springfield is Wolf Creek in Kansas. Dave says he will try to attend a meeting or LunchBunch when he is in the area.

Some of our questions for Dave were about safety issues, of course, but he also explained exactly how the process of producing power works. He brought some replicas of the fuel pellets to illustrate how a small amount of nuclear fuel can replace huge amounts of coal, etc. He described procedures required for detection of contamination as well as security measures in place at each plant.

Dave was very enthusiastic about his new duties, and we wish him well. It was great to see him at this meeting, and we look forward to seeing him again when he is in the area. Be well, be happy and be back soon, my friend.



## October 25<sup>th</sup> Program Report

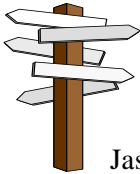
... *By Elaine Johnson*

Are Mensans quick and innovative? Sure! When Carole Sass was not able to give her presentation on genealogy due to an encounter with the flu, we scrambled to put “Plan B” in place. As it turns out, Tom Johnson was willing to give a presentation about his trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina, this past February and March. Not to worry—we will reschedule Carole’s talk for a later program. It is the one she gave at the Annual Gathering in July, and we are eager to hear it.



On each trip, Tom takes lots of pictures in order to create a slide show of what he saw. He also brings back souvenirs and other items of interest. Tom looks through book stores for volumes to add to his library. He showed us one of the books he brought back as well as a very nice picture that he found folded up in one of the books. He had it framed and included it in his display.

Tom stayed in a hotel in the downtown area and went to nearby parks and also took a bus to outlying areas just to see other than the downtown area. Much of what we saw on the slides was architecture of downtown buildings. Tom included several pictures from his visit to the National Art Gallery.



He said it was common to see people walking their dogs. There were stakes in the park for the convenience of putting the dog’s leash over it to let the dog have some freedom while the owner sat on a bench reading his paper or whatever.

Jason and Melynda Eden hosted this meeting and made us all very comfortable. We enjoyed a variety of snacks, goodies, and drinks. This rather jovial group found fun and laughter in almost everything that was said, playing one pun off another. Thanks, Jason, Melynda, and Tom for an excellent meeting.

## Photo Album



Just Some of Those Attending



Certificate of Appreciation for Tom



# Program Report

## September 27, 2003

... By Dave Zapatka

### *The Beauty Is in the Math of the Explosion*

What a lovely party! Krystyna and Michael Clarke are such gracious hosts. The food, the refreshments, and the setting were fabulous.

John Ghirardelli, president of ETI Industries and chairman of The Safety Association of the Commercial Explosives Industry, was our featured speaker at the September party held on the 27<sup>th</sup> at Dr. Michael Clarke's home. What a fascinating PowerPoint presentation!

We learned about the history of black powder (first manufactured in the 17<sup>th</sup> century), nitroglycerine (first created in 1846), and dynamite and detonators (invented by Alfred Nobel in 1856).

The DuPont family played a vital role in the evolution of explosives in the US, as they had a monopoly on the industry in its early years. The federal government broke the company up into three separate companies in 1913. Those companies operate today under the names of ETI, Orica, and Hercules.

ETI's market niches are water gels for wet applications and shot services for customers such as quarries. A current high-profile job being done by ETI is the dredging of the New York harbor. Mr. Ghirardelli's description of the technology involved in performing this job was captivating. In his words, "the beautiful thing is that all the products we use are totally consumed. Nothing is left behind. It is totally environmentally safe."

In what is most certainly the most regulated industry in the country, we learned how explosives, blasting caps, and all related material are methodically tracked from the manufacturing process, through the distribution process, and ultimately to the end user. The government reporting requirements and tracking requirements are mind-boggling. But in these days of increased threats against our way of life, and heightened security, we can rest assured that our best interests are in good hands with men like John Ghirardelli and the people he employs.

# Photo Album



Host Michael Clarke, and Others



Maryann Crosby and Michael's Mom



Bridgett Koenig Enjoying Refreshments



John Ghirardelli, Andrea Miller and Mary Jones



John Making His Presentation



A Rapt Audience



John Making a Point about Regulations



Dave Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation

If you are ever in the Wilmington, DE area, you can visit the Hagley Museum for more on the interesting history of the DuPont family and the explosives industry. Or, you can read “Behind the Nylon Curtain,” a fascinating book on the family and the industry.

Thank you, Mr. Ghirardelli, for a wonderful presentation. Thank you, Michael and Krystyna Clarke, for your gracious hospitality.