



Gamepuzzles.com Newsletter, year-end 2019

Warm greetings to all our friends and customers and supporters!

This year was the 40th anniversary of Kadon Enterprises, Inc.! We've been creating, developing and producing our unique collection of playable art – gamepuzzles for the joy of thinking and a celebration of mind – since 1979. We extend our deepest thanks to all of you who have helped us along the way. You continue to inspire us in our dedication to excellence. There was no newsletter in 2018, so this edition sums up our doings of the last two years. See our 40th anniversary brochure (www.gamepuzzles.com/40yearsofKadon.pdf) and, just for a fun overview, a collage (www.gamepuzzles.com/party2019streamer.pdf) of everything we've made and continue to make. Here's a brief write-up of the big 40th anniversary party (www.gamepuzzles.com/40party2019.pdf) on May 4. To see our entire 4-decade opus, please visit www.gamepuzzles.com – See our many award-winning designs... something for every age, interest and skill. Our gamepuzzles are treasured gifts, and the pleasure lasts.

In this issue: _____

• Website Updates	
... Holiday shopping notes	2
... Our interactive features of the season	2
... Newest releases	2
... Noteworthy and special	4
... 25th Anniversary editions	5
... The 2018 GAPE Award	6
... A new GOPALS Award	6
... Other awards we presented	6
... Distinctions we received this year	6
... Other website features you may have missed	7
... Our challenges open to the World	8
• In the Media	9
... Videos on YouTube	9
... Blogs and social media	9
... Our domains	9
• Gatherings	10
• On the Road	11
... Trip reports	11
... Show Schedule	12
• Connecting – ordering, reaching us, modes of payment	12
• Our Holiday message	13

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Read or print out the online "print catalog" version, from three .pdf files. Its concise descriptions and small illustrations make for a compact portable reference. You'll need Adobe Reader to view it. Prints OK in black-and-white, too. www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm



For a fancier version, see our Shakespearean catalog with 40 pages of iambic pentameter verses describing our products. www.gamepuzzles.com/rfcats-2019.pdf

Then there is our "Flip" catalog with turning pages: <https://www.flipsnack.com/puzzlelady/2019-20-gamepuzzles-catalog.html>



WEBSITE UPDATES

... Holiday shopping notes

- Gift shopping made easy, including PayPal: www.gamepuzzles.com/holiday.htm
- About shipping anywhere, costs and deadlines: www.gamepuzzles.com/shipxmas.htm
- How to order: www.gamepuzzles.com/purchase.htm
- Gift-wrap available – snowflakes or penguins: www.gamepuzzles.com/giftwrap.htm
- Gift certificates available, in multiples of \$25: www.gamepuzzles.com/giftcert.htm

... Our interactive features of the season

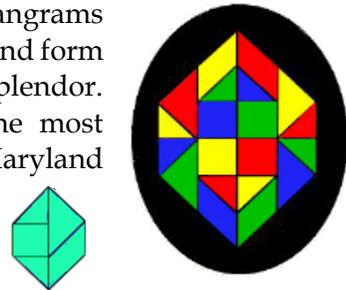
- Try your hand at our very tricky memory game of matching little teddy bears with different colors and poses on different background colors: www.gamepuzzles.com/memory4/memory4.htm
- Here's an even more confusing memory game with Christmas trees in different colors on varying backgrounds. Maddening! www.gamepuzzles.com/Christmas/christmas.htm

... Newest releases for 2018-2019



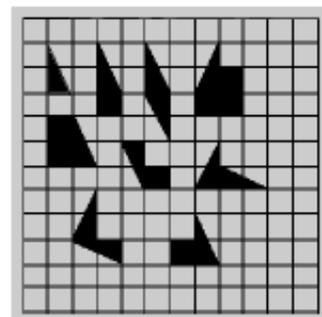
Cookie Jar™ – We present a combinatorial set by Michael Dowle... 13 unique tiles, each with a different combination of 1 through 6 rounded triangles attached to the sides of a concavely curved hexagon. Over 100 puzzle challenges plus two games. A visual delight and ever-intriguing food for thought. \$65 www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch2.htm#CJr

Twenty-Tans™—Created by Hans Weidig IV, this latest evolution of the tangrams concept is lightyears ahead of the traditional set. Its 20 tiles cover 16 squares and form hundreds of figures with mathematical purity. Four vivid colors add visual splendor. And there's something interesting for all ages, from introductory to the most sophisticated. It had its official world premiere during the 2019 Maryland Renaissance Festival. \$49 www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#TwT
 It soon begat a little offshoot, **Handy-Tans™**, our newest pocket puzzle. \$12 www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#HyT



Hex-Pave™—Created by Carl Hoff, these 15 tiles represent all the combinations of hexagons with sides of 1, 2, and 3 units in length, yet all their angles are equal. Although each tile is differently proportioned, they have amazing ways of forming groupings and patterns. Like any family, the uniqueness of each individual tile makes for surprising and delightful adventures, from lacy lattices to tightly bonded beehives. \$65 www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling4.htm#HPv

Shardinaires-9™—Created by George Sicherman and expanded by Kate Jones, the 9 strangely shaped tiles can form all 12 pentominoes and all 5 tetrominoes, besides a wealth of convex, concave, symmetrical, and whimsical silhouette figures. Two games explore unusual strategies of border formation. \$39 www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#SH9



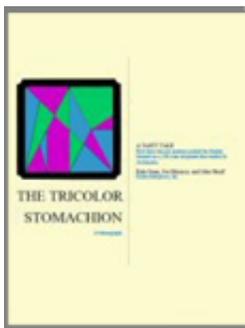
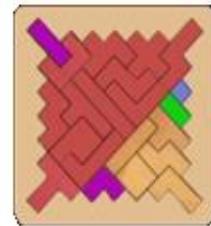
StarHex-I™—Created by Theo Geerinck of the Netherlands, this little brother to our beautiful StarHex-II has 14 tiles, with every combination of from 0 to 6 triangles attached on the edges of a hexagon. Five colors code the pieces by type. At its world premiere, at the 2019 Annual [Megistian Aenigma Agon](#) puzzle competition in Greece, it placed first in the logical puzzle category and won the [Archimedes award](#). Its collection of complex themes will keep you fascinated for years. \$35 www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling2.htm#SH14

MiniTouch-I™—A contour-matching tile set designed by Elijah Allen, adapted from Kate Jones's MiniMatch-I. This graceful puzzle is especially suitable for the visually impaired. No need to look, just play by touch! Embed circles, diamonds, hexagons, and oct-webs by matching their sides. \$29 www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#Mit1



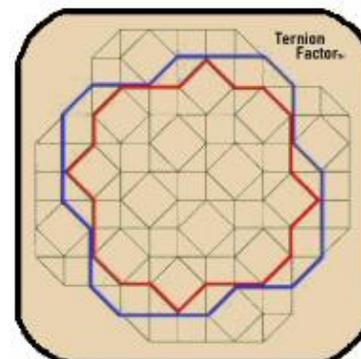
Ochominoes™—invented by Dan Klarskov, a musician, teacher, author, woodworker and puzzle designer from Denmark. We're very excited to be publishing this fabulous set that won first place in a Greek puzzle competition. The 24 octagon dominoes are all unique combinations of octagons and squares. They present a dizzying number of puzzle challenges, each more beautiful than the last. Ages 8 to adult, 1 to 4 players. \$65 www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#Och

Deluxe wood Poly-5™—Our very popular Poly-5 set is back in a beautiful wooden version crafted by Elijah Allen. Lovingly stained and finished in rich hues, it has an elegant engraved wood tray. It started as a limited edition but is too beautiful not to continue. %65 www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub2.htm#P5w



Tricolor Stomachion Monograph—the latest word! A six-month research project with Archimedes' Square (also known as "Stomachion") by Joe Marasco, Kate Jones, and Alex Streif has produced an amazing historical document, new findings after 2200 years of silence about the world's oldest documented puzzle. \$10/\$5 www.gamepuzzles.com/tsm.htm

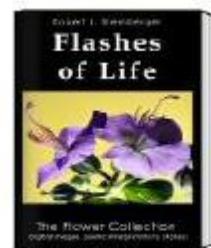
Ternion Factor™— Art Blumberg's fifth beautiful and innovative strategy board game is a game lover's game. Ternion means threes, and each turn is a triple-action adventure. Unlike any game you've ever seen, it lets you add, remove, move pieces as you choose your best combinations. If you're in Maryland, come see our booth at the [Baltimore Christmas Village](#) (Nov. 23-Dec. 24) and have Arthur show and teach you this super game in person. \$85 www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct2.htm#TerF



The Four Horses of the Epic Ellipse™— The ellipse refers to the four identical spherical parts of our **Surprising Pyramid**. Flattening the balls turned them into hexagons, brainchild of Elijah Allen. Now they could make dozens of two-dimensional figures. And since these pentahexes look like running horses, their name became a natural. Great stocking stuffer and to take along anytime for doodling and creative fun. So few pieces, such a long name, and a really tiny price. \$12 www.gamepuzzles.com/prpuzzls.htm#FHE

... Noteworthy and special -----

- *Flashes of Life—The Flower Collection* is a gorgeous book of photography by Bob Steinberger, with haikus by Kate Jones. A museum-quality coffee-table book to treasure forever. A perfect gift. While not a new release, its magnificence deserves repeated mention: www.gamepuzzles.com/flashes.htm

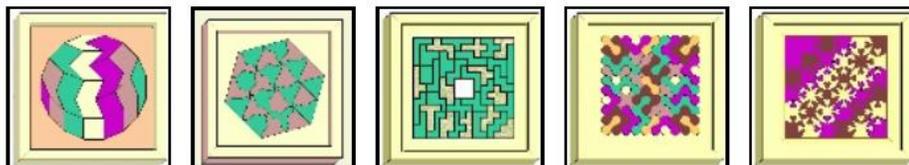


- *World's best music—The Caranza Collection*. Caranza is the stage name of Patric Hale, a phenomenal Meistersinger who has achieved both tenor and baritone mastery of 12 genres of music in 7 languages, with moving emotional sensitivity and blow-you-away power of delivery. He has a repertoire of hundreds of recorded songs, available on 25 CDs, ranging from Elvis, Sinatra, Tom Jones and Billy Joel to Broadway tunes, German songs, Italian and German opera, and more. Visit our showcase of the entire collection, listen to selected samples for free, and order his CDs to enrich every day of your life. www.gamepuzzles.com/Caranza/caranza.htm

... 25th Anniversary editions -----



In 2018 we celebrated these games on the 25th anniversary of their first publication. They have been continuously in print, 1993-2018. See www.gamepuzzles.com/1993notes.htm



Our gorgeous "Rusticana" collection of wood and acrylic sets in wood frames.
www.gamepuzzles.com/rustican.htm

Our other quarter-century honorees in 2018 were:

Oskar's Disks™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/prpuzzls.htm#OD

The Game of Y™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/abstract.htm#GY

Quadrants™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/tactile.htm#QU

Triangle-8™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/tactile.htm#T8



After an energetic year of new products in 1993, we were on a roll and produced 12 new products in 1994. A large number of them were devoted to our latest passion – the golden ratio.

www.gamepuzzles.com/1994notes.htm

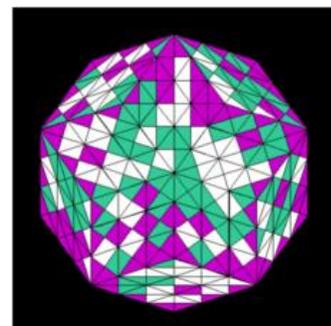
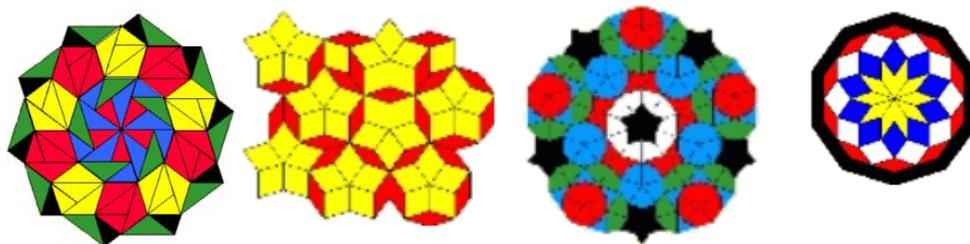
Collidescape™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#CE

Penrose Diamonds – www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#TD

Penrose Kites & Darts – www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#KD

Deka-Star™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuni2.htm#DSt

Rhom-Antics™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuni2.htm#RA



Three big beauties we introduced 25 years ago:

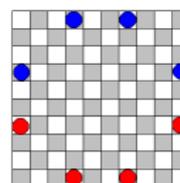
Rainbow Rombix® – www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly3.htm#RRB

Royal Game of the Goose/Labyrinth (tapestry) – www.gamepuzzles.com/glcg.htm

Dual Quintachex® – www.gamepuzzles.com/tactile3.htm#DQ

and a really economical paper-grid strategy game classic:

Amazons™ – www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct3.htm#AM



... The GAPE Award -----

Our 2018 Gamepuzzles Annual Pentomino Excellence award was presented to Raf Peeters of Belgium for *Penguins on Ice*, a set of shape-shifting pentominoes with sudoku goals. His award was also a working puzzle: fit the letters into a square.

www.gamepuzzles.com/gape18.htm



... The GOPALS Award -----

Our occasional industry award, the Gamepuzzles Originality, Perseverance, and Leadership Salute to an admirable company, in 2018 went to Smart Games of Belgium, publishers for over 25 years of excellent games and, most notably, the brilliant *Penguins on Ice*. Their award was also a puzzle: fit all the letters into a square. www.gamepuzzles.com/gopals2018.htm

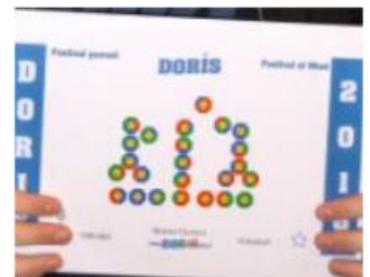
... Other awards we presented -----

2018 and 2019 Doris Championships

The 8th and 9th Annual Festival of Mind and Doris Championships, organized by Zdravko Zivkovic in association with Mensa, took place in many high schools in several European countries, to build problem-solving and creativity with our Doris puzzle (www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#Dor).



The 2018 first-place winner was Matey Fijacko from Slovenia with his "Desert Island" design (left). Marsel Germeri from Croatia won first in 2019 with his "Volleyball" design (right). See all the top 60 winning designs and finalists, as chosen by an international panel of judges, and the award ceremonies in Novi Sad, Serbia:



www.gamepuzzles.com/doris2018champ.htm

www.gamepuzzles.com/doris2019champ.htm

... Distinctions we received this year -----

Megistian Aenigma Agon—This international puzzle competition, founded in 2017, is held annually on the Greek island of Kastellorizo, organized by Pantazis Houlis, a world-class designer and collector. Kadon had won a first-place award in 2017 with our **MiniMatch-I** set. In 2018 our splendid **Ochominoes** by Dan Klarskov won the [Archimedes Award](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/archimedes) (see the certificate at right) in the logical category. Read the whole story here: www.gamepuzzles.com/megistian2.htm





In 2019 we entered our newest little puzzle, **StarHex-I** by Theo Geerinck, as its world premiere, and it won the *Archimedes Award* (certificate shown at left) in turn against a growing slate of competitors from the world's top designers. Here's the rest of the story: www.gamepuzzles.com/megistian3.htm

Salt Fork Arts and Crafts Festival—In August 2019 we exhibited in this warm and friendly community show in Cambridge, OH, for the first time. A surprised Kate receives the Emily Award for “something of interest for a child”, from Festival Director Carol Jones. And we were indeed surrounded by eager young solvers all day.



... Other website features you may have missed -----

- Our **Search index** is a useful page for finding games by type or by special category, cross-referenced from our regular sections. Some unique items are listed only here, not found elsewhere in our website. www.gamepuzzles.com/search.htm

- **Archives**—you can still track back to see what's been happening with us for the last 40 years by browsing through our archives, especially the annual newsletters that sum up our year's doings. Here's the Archives index. www.gamepuzzles.com/archives.htm

- **Blooper Bounty**—Each year we add new features and surprises, new products and new activities to the website. Here's a standing offer — a bounty to the first person to tell us of any bloopers we made! A separate gift for each mistake found. Email: <mailto:kadon@gamepuzzles.com?subject=BlooperBounty>

- **Children's Stories**—Charming original tales, some interactive, by authors Warren Fahy and Robert Vermillion: www.gamepuzzles.com/stories/childs.htm



- **What You Can Buy for \$25 Dollars** — this playful "Chinese menu" page of 12 special items has some surprising goodies for the price-conscious. Check it out: www.gamepuzzles.com/buyfor25.htm

- **Mini-Quiz**—8 installments to date of tricky questions to figure out, with the answers sneakily concealed right before your eyes. Send in your solutions and win a prize. All questions remain open, and solvers' names join the winners' list. www.gamepuzzles.com/quiz8.htm

- **Entertaining features**—All our interactive, online-playable games, amusements, and interesting features are listed here, some with hidden links to make a game even out of finding them:
www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm | www.gamepuzzles.com/resource.htm
www.gamepuzzles.com/faq.htm | www.gamepuzzles.com/kadon.htm

... Our challenges open to the World (you may win a prize) -----

- **Arc Angles™**— form one closed matched loop of all 25 tiles, with minimum enclosed area.

www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#AA

- **The 25-Hole Challenge**— fit thirteen Vee-21™ tiles (V-trominoes) rigidly into their tray...

www.gamepuzzles.com/25holes.htm

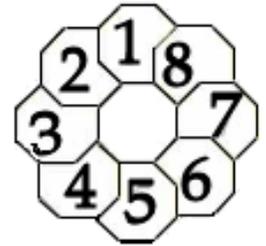
- **The Alphabest Challenge**— use the 26 letters of the alphabet once each to form a crossword puzzle in the smallest grid area. Beat 42 and win a prize. www.gamepuzzles.com/alphabest.htm

- **The 7 Congruent Shapes problem**— divide the 24 Hopscotch™ pieces to form 7 identical areas of 12 unit squares. A new solution wins you a prize:

www.gamepuzzles.com/hopscotch.htm

- **Ochominoes™** - putting all 24 tiles in a row with each adjacent pair symmetrical has been proven impossible. The most is 23. Can you do it with no two of the same color next to each other?

www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#Och



- **The Octo Clock**— arrange 8 numbers as a clock face to meet goals...

www.gamepuzzles.com/g8-clock.htm

- **The Maximum-Squares Challenge**— arrange the 16 Chasing Squares™ tiles to form 24 or more "traceable" squares. Exceed 25 and win a prize. www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling3.htm#CS

- The **Mini-Quiz** series— we've published 8 so far, all still open. No one has fully solved Quiz No. 6, though one player came close. We are curious and curiouser... www.gamepuzzles.com/quiz.htm

- **Rhombiominoes™**— find a new solution to connect all pieces of the same color...

www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#RO

- **L-Sixteen™**— build a double maze of connected holes and continuous flagstones. New solutions win a prize... www.gamepuzzles.com/L16-holes.htm

- **Ten-Yen™**— minimum and maximum perimeters of one color enclosed by the other two. This challenge is still open for new solutions. www.gamepuzzles.com/ten-enc.htm

- **Triangle-8™ Sprouts**— form 25 sprouts or prove that 24 is the maximum possible.

www.gamepuzzles.com/t8-20.htm

- **Trio in a Tray™**— separate all three colors, and completely separate (not even corners touching) any two colors. www.gamepuzzles.com/ty25-trio.htm

- **Vee-21™: the Three-Color Problem**— the search for more solutions of maximum color separation.

www.gamepuzzles.com/3color.htm

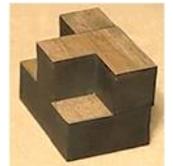
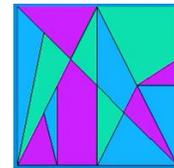
See also our formal Contests page, www.gamepuzzles.com/contests.htm#Kadon

IN THE MEDIA

... Videos on YouTube -----

Our friend Donald Kern has created 4 slick videos showing the 35 one-sided pentacubes forming amazing solutions by Don. Music is original compositions by one of our favorite pianists, Sergei Novikov (www.speakingmusic.com). See also a Super Quintillions solution video and the Stomachion story:

- Regular 5x5x7 Block
www.youtube.com/watch?v=odnc60SBLnk&feature=relmfu
- Two-Sided Staircase
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKPJLq358Ds&feature=relmfu
- Jagged-Edge Block
www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKqi4E-k-TY&feature=relmfu
- Chichen Itza Pyramid
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_5aZyAQJ90&feature=relmfu
- Super Quintillions solution to fit the box
www.gamepuzzles.com/SQ-sol.mp4
- Tricolor Stomachion
www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OMfnQTollA&t=2s



... Kate's Blogs and Social Media -----

- Blogspot, <http://kates-takes.blogspot.com>
- Facebook, www.facebook.com/puzzlelady
- Twitter, <http://twitter.com/gamepuzzlelady>
- LinkedIn, www.linkedin.com/in/puzzlelady
- Flickr, www.flickr.com/photos/puzzlelady/
- Meme Hunter, www.memehunter.net
- PuzzleLady's journal, <https://puzzlelady.dreamwidth.org/>
- Instagram, www.instagram.com/kadongamepuzzles



... Our domains -----

- www.gamepuzzles.com
- www.tactilegraphics.us
- www.playable-art.com
- www.polyformpuzzles.com
- www.hexdominoes.com
- www.thelifeofgames.com
- www.memehunter.net



GATHERINGS

... Mathematical Association of America, [2018 Mathfest](#)

Dick and Kate drove to Denver in August 2018 for this prestigious event. A couple of thousand professional mathematicians, grad students, undergrads, and altogether brainy folks visited our well-filled booth. We were the chief attraction for the kids, from 2 to 12 years, and their parents. It was super to be able to explain the mathematical side of our gamepuzzles at greater depth than usual, and to see them solved so briskly. Among all the booksellers and curriculum planners in the exhibit hall, these unique hands-on designs for mathematical entertainment were a welcome change.



... Celebration of Mind



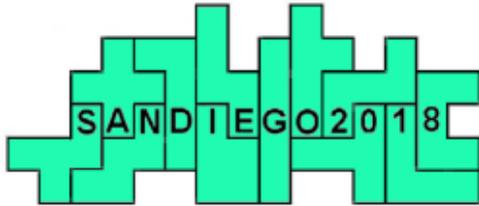
Every year, the last weekend of the Maryland Renaissance Festival is dedicated to Martin Gardner's birthday. Our theme for the 2018 Celebration of Mind was "When are you?", a time travel tale by Kate of visiting ancient places and finding ancient games. Read it here: www.gamepuzzles.com/when.pdf. Record crowds of visitors learned about Martin Gardner, recreational math, polyform puzzles, strategy games, playable art, and problem-solving. Our gifts and handouts for customers included a fact sheet about Martin and a copy of the story, highlighting the world's oldest documented puzzle, the Archimedes' Square (www.gamepuzzles.com/histfun.htm#AS) and its latest research, the Tricolor Stomachion monograph (www.gamepuzzles.com/tsm.htm). For 2019 our theme was "Pentomino/Sudoku" and customers received a souvenir puzzle of 5 pentominoes and 25 cakes to cut out and solve as a 5x5 with no duplicate cakes in any row. See www.gamepuzzles.com/gcom2019.pdf and www.gamepuzzles.com/cake5x5-COM2019.pdf.

... Bridges 2019

Dick and Kate flew to Linz, Austria, in July 2019 to attend the famous Bridges conference, www.gamepuzzles.com/bridges2019.htm. Kate gave a talk on "The Surprising Symmetry Pairs of the 24 Di-Oct Ochominoes Tiles" (www.gamepuzzles.com/SurprSym24och-2019.pdf). Our **Intarsia** poster was on display as an art exhibit (www.gamepuzzles.com/intarsia2019-poster2.pdf). This event was also the world premiere of our newest dissection puzzle, **Shardinaires-9**, by George Sicherman (www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#SH9).

... International Puzzle Party

Dick and Kate attended IPP38 in San Diego, California, in August 2018. Kate had designed a special puzzle, "38=12", www.gamepuzzles.com/38=12.pdf, on the theme of 38 to challenge the collectors and expert solvers with a pentomino puzzle of perimeter 38. You can still get a copy of this puzzle nicely packaged in a slender clear cylinder for \$19: www.gamepuzzles.com/ipp38.htm



This solution has a perimeter of 54 – a long way from 38.



We did not attend the 2019 IPP, held in Japan.

ON THE ROAD

... From the East Coast to the Midwest, and on to Austria

We had our usual Florida tour of shows from January to April, with help from Kate's daughter, Sue Bare, in 2018 and Elijah Allen and Krystal Goodrich in 2019. Then Kate and Sue took on New Jersey, and Kate and Dick handled shows in Ohio, Tennessee, and Michigan, then back to the Maryland Renaissance Festival, our wonderful home show and our 36th season in the 16th century, with the Celebration of Mind (see above) as its grand finale.

Many thanks to our spunky Renaissance booth helpers who meet whatever happens with good humor and energy: Thomas Atkinson, Art Blumberg, Steve Zeve, Eileen Shaivitz, Hans and Katrina Weidig, Elijah Allen, Krystal Goodrich, Dick Jones, and Sue Bare, with standby help from Seth Bonder. We also appreciate the art show organizers and promoters who are our direct connection to the market. It's a dynamic symbiosis that benefits all: organizers, artists, and customers.

... Indoor Shows

Leaving the 16th century, we plowed into our last shows of the year in Richmond and Fairfax, VA, and finally Baltimore – all indoors! As of this writing, the Baltimore Christmas Village is running in a heated tent down by the Inner Harbor, our sixth year of being in this month-long daily show, from Thanksgiving through Dec. 24. Here's our display. Thanks to our manager, Sue Bare, and her stalwart crew of Art Blumberg, Eileen Shaivitz, Hans and Katrina Weidig, and Elijah Allen for their stints in the booth.



... Show Schedule

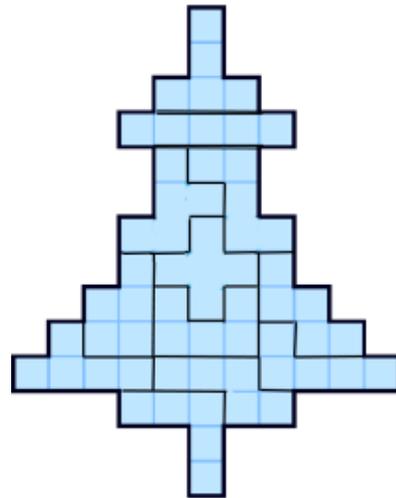
From mid-January through April, gamepuzzles appears in art shows throughout Florida. The summer months we travel to the Midwest, and in the Fall the Maryland Renaissance Festival runs nine weekends, with the Christmas Village filling the rest of the year. Confirmed upcoming show dates for 2020 are posted on our calendar page. We add new shows as we're accepted and confirmed. If you're in the area, please do stop by and say hello. www.gamepuzzles.com/showlist.htm



CONNECTING

www.gamepuzzles.com/contact.htm

Phone: 410-437-2163
Email: kadon@gamepuzzles.com
Mail: Kadon Enterprises, Inc.
1227 Lorene Dr., Suite 16
Pasadena, MD 21122



... Ordering

We accept American Express, Discover/Novus, Visa, Mastercard, and PayPal. Simply make your PayPal payment payable to: kadon@gamepuzzles.com. We also honor checks, money orders, bank transfers, and occasionally cash. Order online, by mail, school purchase orders, phone, and in person at shows. See all ordering details here: www.gamepuzzles.com/purchase.htm



Please let us know when your email address changes, and keep us on your Safe Senders list. We'll never spam you nor give out your private information. You'll just receive our very rarely issued memos and newsletters on matters of interest to you. Of course, if you don't ever want to hear from us, please ask to be removed.

OUR HOLIDAY MESSAGE



We still can't improve on how we have said it before, so we send these words of wishes for the holidays once again...

"Thanks for your continuing support, and best wishes to all of you from all of us at Kadon! By any name that you celebrate these days, and wherever on the planet you may be, let there be a spirit of love and kinship, and the light of understanding.

"In times of turmoil, let us hold fast to truth and honor, to our love of life and liberty, that someday there will be peace on earth among all of us who share this planet, so small and fragile and beautiful, and unique in all the vastness of Time and Space.

"Intelligent life, infinite possibilities, infinitely precious... keep that flame alive." You can see this message with a nice picture of our Christmas tree on our website. The tree was hand-built from plywood, assembles like a puzzle, and features live candles during our traditional Christmas Eve ceremony. Each candle embraces a wish and illuminates a hope. At the very top is a crimson rose, symbolizing love. <http://www.gamepuzzles.com/xmascard.htm>

-- Kate Jones

