



Gamepuzzles.com Newsletter, year-end 2016

Warm greetings to all our friends and customers and supporters!

In this year, our 37th anniversary of creating, developing and producing our unique collection of playable art – gamepuzzles for the joy of thinking and a celebration of mind – 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. For a complete look, please visit our online gallery, 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. See also our other entertainment features you can play or read about in our website.

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_____ *please scroll down*

Read or print out the online "print catalog" version, from three .pdf files. Its condensed 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

WEBSITE UPDATES

... Holiday shopping notes

- Gift shopping made easy, including the convenient PayPal option:
www.gamepuzzles.com/holiday.htm
- About shipping to anywhere in the world, costs and deadlines:
www.gamepuzzles.com/shipxmas.htm
- Gift-wrapping available; choose a style (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

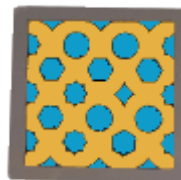
... Newest releases for 2016-2017



MiniMatch-I™ — 9 edge-colored squares, all different, make an incredible variety of patterns by matching colors. Form wrap-around solutions, symmetries, enclosed colors. The four colors are not equally assigned; you get 8 triangles of two colors, and 10 of the other two. www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#Mim1

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 corresponding sides.

www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#Mit1





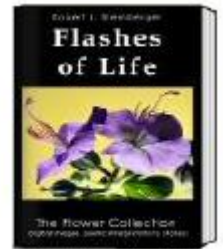
Ochominoes™—invented by Dan Klarskov, a musician, teacher, author, woodworker and puzzle designer from Denmark. We're very excited to be publishing this fabulous set, having its world premiere for Christmas 2016. The 24 octagon dominoes are all unique combinations of octagons and squares. They present a dizzying number of puzzle challenges, each more beautiful than the last. For ages 8 to adult, 1 to 4 players.

www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling.htm#Och

... 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

... New discoveries for old friends -----

- **Chasing Squares™**—This darling set keeps surprising us with its immense variety of symmetry types and themes. New patterns emerge each time you play.

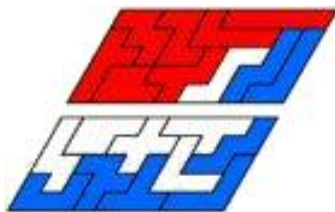
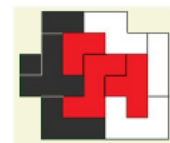
www.gamepuzzles.com/cs-designs.htm



- **MiniMatch-I™**—Marvelous wrap-arounds with colormatched edges and one or two enclosed colors and even full symmetry of all colors. Make torus and Klein-bottle matches.

www.gamepuzzles.com/mim1-match.htm

- **Ten-Yen™**—Enclose one color by the other two, with longest and shortest perimeters. New solutions win prizes. www.gamepuzzles.com/ten-enc.htm



- **Rhombiominos™**—New solutions found for color groupings, verified by George Sicherman and his faithful computer. The figure shown has colors grouped *plus* a division into two parallelograms.

www.gamepuzzles.com/ro-conn.htm



- **Rombix® Jr.** — Cool new patterns created by young visitors to our booth, and by our own booth hostess, Meshele. Always a surprise, and some imaginative shape to detect in its arrangements. www.gamepuzzles.com/rbjfyp.htm

• **Trio-in-a-Tray™** — We produced this combo as a 25th anniversary tribute for our 3 venerable mini-puzzles, the Tiny Tans, and it still amazes us with new variations and beauty. *Plus*--we keep finding ever trickier challenges! www.gamepuzzles.com/ty25-trio.htm



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



In 2016 we celebrated these games on the 25th anniversary of their first publication. They have all been continuously in print, 1991-2016. See more of their stories in our historical notes, *Happy marriages*, www.gamepuzzles.com/1991notes.htm

- **Gallop™** — a race across the board with powerful horses, and 4 other games plus solitaires. www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct6.htm#GA
- **Kaliko™** — our own production of this beloved game of 85 hexagons with colored paths. www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch3.htm#KO
- **Lewis Carroll's Chess Wordgame™** — move letters like queens to form words. Defined by Martin Gardner based on Lewis Carroll's diary. www.gamepuzzles.com/histfun.htm#LC
- **Oskar's Disks™** — two disks that interlink with graceful rotations. Can you solve in 9 moves? www.gamepuzzles.com/prpuzzls.htm#OD
- **Throw a Fit™** — 10 color cubes to match by chance or build with wits. www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct3#T10

... The GAPE Awards -----

Our latest Gamepuzzles Annual Pentomino Excellence awards are:

- **2015** — “Untouchable 11” to Carl Hoff and Peter Grabarchuk for their packing of the 11 cube-fold hexominoes into small rectangles without touching. <http://www.puzzles.com/PuzzleClub/Untouchable11MasterChallenge/index.htm>
- **2016** — “Pent-Words” to Grant Fikes for his pentomino-filled crossword puzzle in a 10x10 square (*Games Magazine*, October 2016), digital version available here: <https://www.zinio.com/www/browse/issue.jsp?skuId=416391413#/>

Illustrations of these two awards will appear online soon. They are specially designed for their theme. See earlier awards here: www.gamepuzzles.com/kadon.htm#bestow

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

Kadon occasionally sponsors awards to First-Place winners of certain puzzle-solving competitions, particularly those that use Kadon products, and for other extraordinary merit in the world of puzzles and games. Here are some winners from 2016:

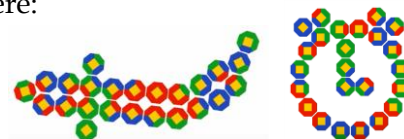
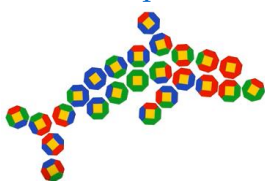
- The Sixth Annual **Doris Championship and Festival of Mind**, 2016, organized by *Doris* inventor Zdravko Zivkovic, involved thousands of students in 10 countries. See the entries here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KterHKI_vyM The top winners were:

1st place: Matilda Sain, Italy – “Dolphin”

2nd Place: Dóra Törteli, Serbia – “Alarm Clock”

3rd Place: Ana Gvozdenović, Serbia – “Damascus Sword”



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

- The **Bridges Conference** -- <http://bridgesmathart.org/home> -- art exhibit at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland, was held August 9-13, 2016. Kadon's **Pentarose** was among the pieces on display (www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#PTR) and, on Bridges' mathematical poetry day, Kate read her *Twelveness* fibonacci verses, previously presented at G4G12 in Atlanta. www.gamepuzzles.com/Fib-Bridges2016.pdf

... 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 37 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 find and 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

- **Puzzle Parlor** of a dozen Kadon puzzles, each with 3 levels of difficulty; works with Flash — www.gamepuzzles.com/pparlor/ppscreen.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



- **Entertaining features** — All our interactive, online-playable games and amusements are listed here, some with hidden links to make a game even out of finding them:

www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#icons

www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#memory

www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#amuse

- Our **Shakespearean catalog** — The [Maryland Renaissance Festival](http://www.marylandrenaissancefestival.com) celebrated its 40th season of 9 weekends, from August 27-October 23, 2016. We've updated the special [Shakespearean version](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/shakespearean-version) of our catalog to 40 pages of iambic pentameter verses describing our products. www.gamepuzzles.com/rfcat-2015.pdf



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

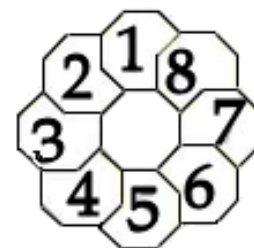
www.gamepuzzles.com/hopscotch.htm

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

www.gamepuzzles.com/g8-clock.htm

- 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



- **Rhombiominos™** — 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

- **Triangule-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

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).

- 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



... See us on Facebook -----

"Like" us at www.facebook.com/gamepuzzles and see our latest news and stories. Post your comments, questions and answers.

... A Proteus® applet for mobile devices -----

Created by Paul Nord. Play Proteus against a fairly smart computer. At the Apple store for under a dollar: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/michael-waitsmans-proteus/id525544204>

... Blockout® applet for Windows Phone -----

Under license from Kadon, Paul Thomann in Switzerland has written a great program to play classic Blockout on Windows Phone versions 7.5 and up. Get your copy from the Windows store, Blockout for Windows Phone.

... Play The Game of Y™ free online -----

Thanks to Anand Babu Periasamy and his skillful programming, there is now a creative commons facility on the Meteor website for playing this fine connection game online. Let us know how you like it! Then come back and order our beautiful deluxe wood set for hands-on enjoyment.

<http://game-of-y.meteor.com/>



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



- Blogspot, <http://kates-takes.blogspot.com>
- Live Journal, www.livejournal.com/users/puzzlady/
- Facebook, www.facebook.com/puzzlady
- Twitter, <http://twitter.com/gamepuzzlady>
- LinkedIn, www.linkedin.com/in/puzzlady
- Flickr, www.flickr.com/photos/puzzlady/
- Google Plus, <https://plus.google.com/u/0/105124901131808973542/posts>
- Meme Hunter, www.memehunter.net

... Our domains -----

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



GATHERINGS

... Atlas Summit

Dick and Kate flew to Las Vegas, NV, in July 2016 for an unusual event, The Atlas Summit, the annual conference of The Atlas Society (www.atlassociety.org/), a group of philosophers, libertarians, intellectuals, artists, writers and one puzzle maker. This year it was part of FreedomFest, four stimulating days of workshops and presentations. Kate brought along a small supply of puzzles and games to show and sell for a somewhat different kind of thinking.

... "The Great Connections" Weekend Seminar

Conducted by Marsha Enright, director of the Reason, Freedom and Individualism Institute, this fascinating workshop and discussions of literary passages explored the theme of "Reason and Love", on October 29-30, 2016, hosted at Kadon headquarters. Attendees received a personalized BuzzBears puzzle as a souvenir. www.gamepuzzles.com/spinners.htm

... 12th Gathering for Gardner — <http://gathering4gardner.org/>

This invitation-only biennial event in Atlanta in March 2016 honoring Martin Gardner (1914-2010) brought together hundreds of world-class mathematicians, magicians, puzzle makers, computer scientists, philosophers, and admirers of Martin Gardner, whose writing career on



all those subjects spanned 70 years. This year's theme was the number 12. The many presentations on this theme kept the audience spell-bound by day, and a super cast of magicians entertained by night. Kate's illustrated talk in verse was on "Twelveness", a fibonacci verse on the history of pentominoes. www.gamepuzzles.com/g4g12-2016.ppt

Guests also received a souvenir gift bag; Kate contributed a text-only copy of the "Twelveness" verse and a copy of Kadon's 40-page Renaissance Festival catalog, written entirely in iambic pentameter with a Shakespearean flavor. www.gamepuzzles.com/rfc2015.pdf

... Celebration of Mind

For the last weekend of the Maryland Renaissance Festival season, October 22-23, 2016, our pavilion, **Ye Olde Gamery**, hosted one of hundreds of official Celebration of Mind events held worldwide (<http://celebrationofmind.org>) honoring the birthday of Martin Gardner. Elijah Allen carved a pumpkin with Martin's likeness (shown below). Too bad it's such an impermanent medium.

Visitors received a souvenir copy of the 4-page "Twelveness" fibonacci verse Kate had presented at the Gathering for Gardner in Atlanta in March 2016 (www.gamepuzzles.com/twelveness.pdf and www.gamepuzzles.com/g4g12-2016.ppt) and at the Bridges Conference poetry reading in Finland in August (www.gamepuzzles.com/Fib-Bridges2016.pdf), and customers also received a special gift, a BuzzBears spinner inscribed with *Celebration of Mind* 2016: www.gamepuzzles.com/spinners.htm



ON THE ROAD

... From the East Coast to the Midwest, and out to Nevada and Minnesota

This year our shows were all over the map, with Kate Jones and Meshele Merchant handling the Florida winter events, with help from Eric Bare. Then Dick and Kate took on NJ, NY, Ohio, and on to Minnesota, Akron, upstate New York and out to Las Vegas for a philosophical conference and FreedomFest (mainly libertarian/political), and finally the Bridges conference in Finland, before plunging into the Maryland Renaissance Festival. We also discovered Alex Streif, whose bag of skills and interests was such a good match to our needs that we instantly adopted him as our newest associate. He checked us out, too, during a visit to the Maryland Renaissance Festival, and moved to Maryland in September 2016, happily leaving the brutal Minnesota winters behind. Welcome, Alex!

... Maryland Renaissance Festival, August-October 2016 — www.rennfest.com

Our 33rd season was the festival's 40th year. We designed a special award for the festival management, the Smith family, and presented it to them as a surprise gesture of the artisans' appreciation for their long-standing dedication: a 40-piece puzzle and a long scroll (see back page) signed by all the booth owners. Their total years of participation added up to 2148! Thanks to Shane Odom for collecting all the signatures.



The "King" and his royal companions stopped by to play the Royal Game of the Goose at Ye Olde Gamery. Here are pics: www.gamepuzzles.com/renfest.htm#king



The lovely goose mistress Katrina (with elfin ears) hosts visitors to play the Royal Game of the Goose. *Left:* with King Henry VIII. He won on his first roll this time.



The last weekend of the season we again dedicated as a "Celebration of Mind" in honor of the birthday of Martin Gardner (1914-2010). See also above, and more story and pictures here: www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2015gardnercom.htm

Thanks and kudos to our great crew: Thomas Atkinson, Arthur Blumberg, Adam Criswell, Dick Jones, Meshele Merchant, Eileen Shaivitz, Hans and Katrina Weidig, Steve Zeve, and to our seasonal and standby helpers, Seth Bonder and John Wright.

... Indoor Shows

Leaving the 16th century, we plowed into our last five shows of the year in Richmond and Fairfax, VA; Cleveland, OH, and Greensboro, NC; and finally Baltimore – all indoors! The Baltimore Christmas Village was actually in a heated tent, our third year of being in this month-long daily show, from Thanksgiving through Dec. 24. Here's our display, which also entertained around forty students a day for their class projects. Thanks to the stalwart crew of Meshele Merchant, Eric Bare, Elijah Allen and Alex Streif for their stints in the booth.



... Show Schedule

From mid-January through April, gamepuzzles appear in art shows throughout Florida. The summer months we travel to the Midwest, and in the Fall the Maryland Renaissance Festival runs nine weekends. Confirmed upcoming show dates for 2017 are already 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

This year was our fullest show schedule ever, covering 108 days in 34 shows from Miami to Minnesota, including one entire month in Baltimore's Christmas Village, which is open every single day except for 3 Tuesdays from Thanksgiving through Christmas Eve.

We're still testing whether working smarter, harder and longer will let us at least keep breaking even. After 37 years of doing this, our best reward is still the creative process and meeting customers who value what we do.

Many thanks to our spunky booth helpers who meet whatever happens with good humor and energy. Special thanks to Meshele and Eric and Dick, who took turns hitting the road with Kate in any weather, and to Elijah Allen and Eric, who took on representing Kadon at gaming conventions.

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.

CONNECTING

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... 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.

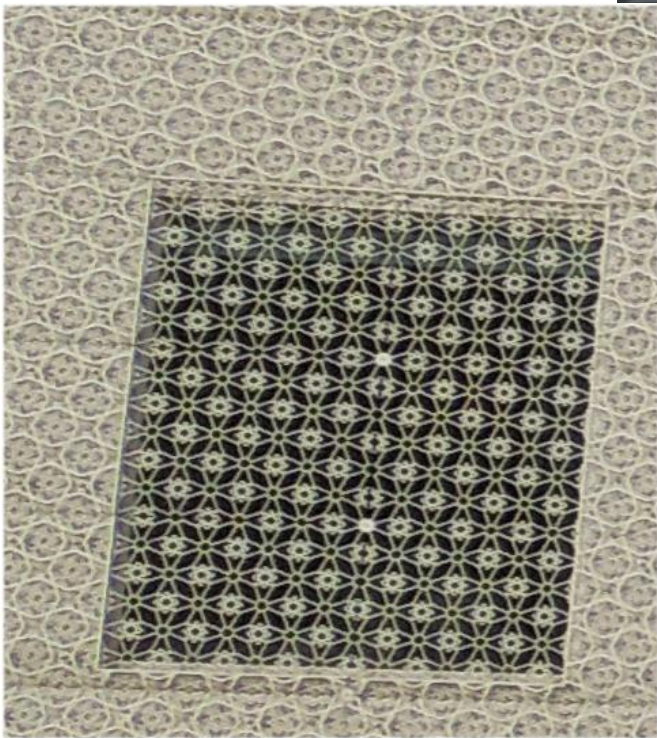
"Intelligent life, infinite possibilities, infinitely precious... keep that flame alive." You can see this message with a nice picture of our Christmas tree on our website. The tree was hand-built from plywood, assembles like a puzzle, and features live candles during our traditional Christmas Eve ceremony. 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



Tilings, patterns, designs around the world

We love pavement geometry and decorative manhole covers. Could inspire a new puzzle set! These photos were gleaned from Denmark and Finland in summer 2016. *Right*, entrance to Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen. *Below*, wall detail.



Everything in Scandinavian countries is beautifully designed, even drain grills and kiosk covers. *Right*, found these colorful mandala designs on a vendor cart in Jyvaskyla, Finland.





The red and white shoelaces are part of Kate's hiking boots.



Proclamation

of extraordinary merit, superb performance,
unremitting excellence and dedication
of the Family Smith through

40 years

of producing the



MARYLAND
Renaissance Festival

2016



Hear ye, hear ye!

Be it known that the artisans and shopkeepers
of the Maryland Renaissance Festival
in Crownsville, Maryland, do hereby present
this award to the Smith family and their noble
management team in appreciation of the heroic
achievements of 40 years (1976-2016) of
Festival organization. Signed hereunder by the
grateful participants and community
of Rebel Grove:
(Over 200 signatures were collected)

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Many
happy
returns