

Filing Status Single Married filing jointly Married filing separately (MFS) Head of household (HOH) Qualifying surviving spouse (QSS)
Check only one box. If you checked the MFS box, enter the name of the person who is a child but not your dependent on the return. If you checked the HOH or QSS box, enter the child's name if the qualifying child is a child but not your dependent.

April 2024

Your first name and middle initial _____ Last name _____ Your social security number _____
Spouse's social security number _____
City or town, state, and ZIP code _____
Foreign province/state/country _____ Foreign postal code _____
 You Spouse

Digital Assets Yes No
Someone can claim You as a dependent Your spouse as a dependent
Standard Deduction Spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a dual-status alien

Age/Blindness You: Were born before January 2, 1958 Are blind Spouse: Was born before January 2, 1958 Is blind

Dependents (see instructions):

(1) First name	Last name	(2) Social security number	(3) Relationship to you	(4) Child tax credit	Credit for other dependents
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Income

1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	1f	1g	1h	1i	1z
Total amount from Form(s) W-2, box 1 (see instructions)	Household employee wages not reported on Form(s) W-2	Tip income not reported on line 1a (see instructions)	Medicaid waiver payments not reported on Form(s) W-2 (see instructions)	Taxable dependent care benefits from Form 2441, line 26	Employer-provided adoption benefits from Form 8839, line 29	Wages from Form 8919, line 6	Other earned income (see instructions)	Nontaxable combat pay election (see instructions)	Add lines 1a through 1h

Attach Sch. B if required.

2a	2b
Tax-exempt interest	Taxable interest
Qualified dividends	Ordinary dividends
IRA distributions	Taxable amount
Capital gains distributions	Taxable amount
Social security benefits	Taxable amount

Standard Deduction for Single or Married filing separately \$12,900 Married filing jointly or Qualifying surviving spouse \$19,300
9 Add lines 12, 2a, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7, and 8. This is your total income _____
10 Subtract line 9 from line 7. This is your adjusted gross income _____
11 Subtract line 10 from line 7. This is your taxable income _____

- Audubon-Parkside #218
- Campana de Libertad #376
- Collingswood-Cloud #101
- Laurel #237
- Lazarus #303
- Merchantville #119
- Mozart #121
- Rising Sun #15
- USS NJ #62

INSIDE
BLOOD DRIVE!
April's Solar Eclipse
So You Think You Know Masonry — April Fools!
Masonic Profile: Frank Gotch

and Much More!

CONTENTS

From the Editor 3

Your Grand Chaplains 4

BLOOD DRIVE! 5

Article: April’s Solar Eclipse 6

Article: So You Think You Know Masonry—April Fools!... 7

Masonic Profile: Frank Gotch..... 11

SCHEDULES AND DEPARTMENTS 14

- 18th District Lodge Communications 15
- Official Visits of the DDGM 16
- Official Visit and GLI Requirements 17
- 2024 DLI/GLI Schedule 18
- Monthly Calendar 19

This Month’s 18th District Events 20

Looking Forward: Upcoming Events 23

Outside the District: GL & Appendant Bodies 25

Entertainment Pages 33

18th District Light: Journal of the 18th Masonic District

Editor: RW David A. Frankel — dafrankel@comcast.net

BACK ISSUES OF THE 18TH DISTRICT LIGHT CAN BE FOUND AT:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1zPsUAMCi4Oc0YxSTBKS18xYUk?resourcekey=0-kpXXfYD-Z7I-MVBMEYH3Tg&usp=sharing>

THE 18TH DISTRICT BLUEBOOK CAN BE FOUND AT:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tQMIPxzmFirdAeFIXabMTZMMB1Sz-ZJk?usp=sharing>

FROM THE EDITOR

*B*rethren,

It's another typically busy month in the 18th Masonic District. Please take special note of our BLOOD DRIVE on Thursday, April 25th, at Merchantville Lodge. As some of you may know, we have had issues in the past with Red Cross personnel cancelling blood drives upon their arrival because (some would say on the pretense that) they "smell gas" where no gas problem exists, whatever they imagine they smell. This has happened at two different lodge sites at least. District Blood Drive Chairman, WB Shawn Roberts, is doing everything he can to ensure that the site is aired out so the Blood Drive can go forward. Even if you've had a prior failed experience attempting to give blood in these circumstances, please stick with your nobler instincts and try again. Masons can't control Red Cross personnel, but we can stick by our charitable principles.

Be well!

Dave



HAPPY PASSOVER

*The world is my country, all mankind are my
brethren, and to do good is my religion.*

— Thomas Paine



YOUR GRAND CHAPLAINS



RW Joseph Abiuso
Grand Chaplain
Laurel Lodge No. 237
C: 856-357-7883
J.abiuso888@gmail.com



RW Mark A. Friedrich
Grand Chaplain
Rising Sun Lodge No. 15
C: 856-571-4117
Markfriedrich54@gmail.com

We are here to help.
If anyone in your lodge is ailing, in need of a phone
call, card, or visitation ...
If you need assistance with a Masonic funeral ...
Or anything else we can do to assist ...
Please call upon us.

Joe

Mark

Spring into life.

Give blood.



18th Masonic District Blood Drive

Thursday, April 25th

Noon – 5:00 PM

18th Masonic District at the
Merchantville Masonic Temple
6926 Park Ave
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

For an appointment, please visit or click redcrossblood.org
and search 18th Masonic
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Thank you for your support.

APRIL'S SOLAR ECLIPSE

by 18th District Light Editor, RW David A. Frankel, PGC, Rising Sun Lodge No. 15

On Monday, April 8, 2024, we will once again be treated to one of the most spectacular astronomical events that we are from time to time privileged to witness — a total eclipse of the sun — one in which the path of totality cuts right through the heart of America. Just in case that requires further explanation for some, the “path of totality” is the path along the earth from which observers will see the sun’s disc totally obscured by earth’s moon as the moon passes in front of the sun and blocks out its light. Looked at another way, it is the path of the moon’s shadow being cast upon the earth



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows the path of totality, from southwest to northeast across the U.S., passing directly over cities such as San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Little Rock, Indianapolis, Toledo, Cleveland, Erie, Buffalo, and Burlington.

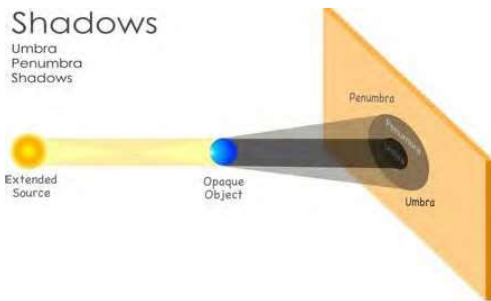


Figure 2

During a solar eclipse, the moon’s shadow is composed of two parts — the **umbra** and the **penumbra**, as illustrated in figure 2. The path of totality is the path of the umbra, where the moon totally blocks out the sun. People to either side of the path of totality, but still within the width of the penumbra, will experience varying degrees of a partial solar eclipse. Outside of the penumbra, folks won’t even notice the new moon passing right by the sun.

As you have probably already figured out, New Jersey is not along the path of totality. But if you’re not prepared to travel to the path of totality, you will still get a pretty spectacular view from home. Virtually all of North Jersey will see 90 to 95% of the sun obscured by the moon, while most of South Jersey will be in the 85 to 90% range, according to NASA. One final word, PLEASE REMEMBER — **NEVER LOOK DIRECTLY AT THE SUN DURING A SOLAR ECLIPSE**. Even with much of the sun’s rays blocked, it is still highly dangerous to look at it directly. Check online for many sources of tips on how to watch the eclipse safely. ♦

How Fast is the Moon’s Shadow Moving?

For starters, on average the moon moves along its orbit at 2288 miles per hour from west to east. But the earth is also rotating towards the east. The rotational speed of a point on the earth’s surface at the equator is approximately 1037 mph, getting progressively slower as you move away from the equator, until it reaches a miniscule 0.00005 mph at the poles. Because the earth is rotating in the same direction as the moon is moving, the speed of the earth’s rotation must be subtracted from the speed of the moon to arrive at the speed of the moon’s shadow. But because the path of a solar eclipse typically follows a diagonal path across the earth, cutting across many different latitudes, the speed of the moon’s shadow is constantly changing during the eclipse.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW MASONRY — APRIL FOOLS!

by 18th District Light Editor, RW David A. Frankel, PGC, Rising Sun Lodge No. 15

Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the work *Masonic Myths*, by Trevor W. McKeown, published on the website of the *Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon*, which I was inspired to seek out by the immeasurably useful and informative series of booklets, *Studies for the Enquiring Freemason*, provided by Bro. J. Stewart Donaldson, Hawick, Scotland.

I've been a Mason for 50 years and for the last fourteen I have been intimately involved in educating new Masons in both the ritual, rules, and rich history of our fraternity. Naturally, I have striven to ensure that the information with which I provide them is accurate. But once we venture outside of the prescribed ritual, and the black and white rules laid down in Grand Lodge and Lodge by-laws (always seemingly open to interpretation), the waters tend to muddy quite a bit.

Masonic history is a quagmire of fact and legend, often hard to distinguish, and much of it simply made up by well-intended, but self-appointed, experts in the Craft. I offer up as a prime example the Ancient Landmarks, on which no two Masonic jurisdictions seem to entirely agree, especially when it comes to the number of such landmarks. New Jersey has but ten, while no less a Masonic "authority" than Albert Mackey lists twenty-five in his Masonic encyclopedia. The Morgan Affair is another classic. Most of us know the basic facts of the matter. But during my several forays into researching the affair, for the purpose of writing articles thereon, I have found numerous different accounts not only of the basic facts involved, but especially of the aftermath and Morgan's ultimate fate. I have yet to find what seems to me to be a conclusive treatment.

Many of us, as Masons, have come to believe strongly in things that may not be quite as rock solid as we think. April being the month of April Fools' Day, I felt this would be the appropriate 18th District Light issue in which to talk about some of the things that many believe, but which are really still very much in question. The material that follows is taken largely from Brother McKeown's article, *Masonic Myths*, and I present it as I found it, without making any representation that I necessarily accept or vouch for his factual assertions, but also intermixed with some of my own views. Leaving you to judge for yourselves — which I know you were going to do anyway — where the truth lies!

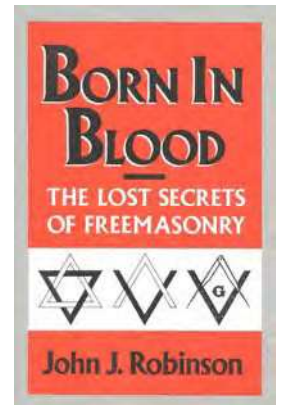
Myths of Masonic Origins

Dr. James Anderson, composer or compiler of our first Book of Constitutions in 1723, provided in his Preface a rather fantastical history of Freemasonry, claiming the lineal descent of modern Freemasonry directly through King Athelstan (mentioned in the Regius Poem), King Solomon, and Adam (yes, the Adam of the Bible). For the next two hundred-plus years, many freemasons accepted that literally, leading many non-masons to believe that was a

matter of formal Masonic teaching. APRIL FOOLS!

Today we are largely unsure exactly who King Athelstan was, whether he was a real personage, or a blend of several, or simply fictitious. The link to King Solomon and the building of his temple is strictly legendary.

Another story used to explain our transition from purely operative stonemasons into the speculative fraternity we have today, is the belief that some portion of the Knights Templar, after fleeing Europe, thanks to the shenanigans of King Phillip of France and the Pope, sought refuge in Scotland, where they blended into lodges of stonemasons to hide their own practices and beliefs, transforming the stonemasons into a formative version of today's freemasonry. This author confesses that he has long believed this tale, based largely on John Robinson's convincing book, *Born in Blood*. APRIL FOOLS!



Bro. McKeown hangs his contrary hat mainly on Robert Cooper, past curator of the museum of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and an author for whom I, too, have tremendous respect. Cooper is widely recognized as a Masonic authority, and based on years of research wrote what Bro. McKeown describes as the “definitive debunking of this myth” in the 2002 edition of *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, as well as in his own book on the subject.

The Forget-Me-Not Myth

Many of us own, and even more have seen, the little blue forget-me-nots that have been variously sported as lapel pins, tie pins, tie clasps, and even cufflinks. As new masons many of us were taught that this pin bore a unique and somewhat secret message. We are told that it was worn in Germany and occupied countries by soldiers, civilians, and even concentration camp inmates, who were Masonic brothers, to display their dedication and courage in holding to Masonic principles and beliefs, even in the face of Nazi repression. I hate to say it, but, APRIL FOOLS!



According to Bro. McKeown, the Grand Lodge zur Sonne (Bayreuth) used to make a pin for their delegates to wear to annual meetings. In 1926, that pin was made to depict a forget-me-not. Later, in 1934, the Nazis themselves used youths to collect money on the streets to support rearmament, and issued pins to contributors. The pin used in March 1938 was the same forget-me-not pin previously used by Mason. But, again according to Bro. McKeown, “there is absolutely no record of the pin, or the flower, ever having been worn during the war anywhere in Germany much less in concentration camps. The Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Germany, Dr. Theodor Vogel, distributed the same pin as a token of friendship during his official visits abroad after 1948, including his visit to the Conference of Grand Masters in Washington, DC, in February 1953. Somehow, his recounting of the history of the pin morphed into the legend many believe today.

Myths of our Rituals

Our three Masonic Degrees have been handed down, unchanged, since “time immemorial,” right? APRIL FOOLS!

I cannot speak for all of the fraternity, nor even all of the fraternity in New Jersey, or even my own district. But we (at Rising Sun Lodge) have been teaching candidates for many years that there were originally only two degrees, the EA and FC. According to Bro. McKeown, there are no records of a third degree prior to 1737, and even after the development of the Hiramic legend, Masonry was more dominated by stories of Noah and his sons, to wit, the Ancient Ark Mariner degree, that AMD preserves and many of us are at least passingly familiar with. As McKeown states, more than one ritual is practiced across different jurisdictions, and none of them have come down unaltered from time immemorial, and therefore, “to say that prohibitions regarding innovations in the work is a landmark,” is itself a myth.

The abbreviation A.L. stands for Anno Lucis, the Year of Light, and refers to the creation of the world by God. We’ve all seen this alternative dating scheme on Masonic trestleboards and other documents — to wit, A.D. 2024, A.L. 6024. Bro. McKeown acknowledges the source of that 4000 year difference to be Irish Archbishop James Ussher. I, myself, invoked Bishop Ussher when I played Matthew Harrison Brady in a production of *Inherit the Wind* in 1979 (misspelling of Usher’s name attributable to the playwright):

Matthew Harrison Brady: A fine biblical scholar, Bishop Usher, has determined for us the exact date and hour of the Creation. It occurred in the year 4004 B.C.

Henry Drummond: Well, that's Bishop Usher's opinion.

Matthew Harrison Brady: It's not an opinion. It's a literal fact—which the good Bishop arrived at through careful computation of the ages of the prophets, as set down in the Old Testament. In fact, he determined that the Lord began the Creation on the 23rd of October, 4004 B.C. at, uh, 9:00 AM.

Henry Drummond: That Eastern Standard Time? Or Rocky Mountain Time? It wasn't Daylight Saving Time, was it? Because the Lord didn't make the sun until the fourth day.

Do I have to say it? APRIL FOOLS!

If A.L. doesn’t stand for Anno Lucis, I’d like to know what else it could stand for, while still adding 4000 years to our present date. Bro. McKeown offers the following.

“The earliest mention of ‘Anno Lucis’ in England is in 1777.

“The initials can be found as early as in 1725, and frequently in the years afterwards. But it does not follow that these letters stood for ‘Anno Lucls’. In both the first and second editions of our Constitutions (printed in 1723 and 1738 respectively), the author uses the English

phrase ‘Year of Masonry’.

“There are jewels extant inscribed ‘Anno Lat. 5732’. The abbreviation ‘Lat’ almost certainly stands for ‘Latomorum’, the genitive plural case of the Latin word ‘Latomus’ (or in its more usual form ‘Lautomus’) itself derived from Greek, and means ‘of stone-cutters’. First seen in 14th-century Fabric Rolls it came to represent ‘of freemasons’. Thus ‘Anno Latomorum’ can be read as ‘in the Year of Freemasons’ and, not unreasonably, ‘of Freemasonry’.

“The abbreviation ‘AL.’ can apply also to ‘Anno Lithotomorum,’ which is found in 1735 in the Minutes of a lodge at Salisbury. The prefix ‘litho’ derives from the Greek and the full word again means ‘the Year of Masonry’.

“In 1752 we have the first List of lodges published by the Grand Lodge of the Antients and engraved by Ellis. He uses ‘Anno Lap’. This could safely be assumed to mean ‘Anno Lapidarium’ ‘in the Year of the Stonecutters’ and, by definition, ‘of Freemasonry’.”

What Bro. McKeown does not explain, if any of the other offered explanations for the abbreviation A.L. are the correct one, why it is still associated with adding 4000 years to the current date. Frankly, I’m not concerned with it beyond it being a peculiar Masonic affectation. What I would be concerned with is any unenlightened souls who today still believed that the planet was only 6000 years old.

Myths Promoted by Non-Masons

There are so many ridiculous rumors, misconceptions, and conspiracy theories, among the profane, that it is almost impossible to deal with them here. But one or two might be worthy of mention, as we are in some ways ourselves contributors to them.

There are those among us who have been prone to creating immense lists of famous freemasons, often on flimsy or even non-existent evidence. In the era of “alternative facts” all it takes is for one claim to be proven wrong to brand us all as liars. For example, according to McKeown, Louis Armstrong, Lord Baden-Powell, Captain James Cook, Carroll O’Connor, Bram Stoker, Richard Wagner, H.G. Wells, and Sean Connery have all been claimed at one time to have been freemasons—none of them were. Under such circumstances, the profane are free to believe whatever they want about us, because our own truths cannot be relied upon.

This phenomenon also manifests when the role of Masons in the founding of America is embellished. Fourteen U.S. Presidents were freemasons (15 if we count EA Lyndon Johnson) — not most, not all. Only 8 out of 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were freemasons; only 9 out of 40 signers of the U.S. Constitution were freemasons — not most, not all.

Rumors regarding Masonic connections to Rev. Billy Graham, the Ku Klux Klan, the French Revolution, Jack the Ripper, and the Great Seal of the United States, etc., have all been debunked, but continue to carry traction among the general public. Let’s all become more educated about our own history, and no longer contribute to being APRIL FOOLS! ♦

MASONIC PROFILE: FRANK GOTCH

by Bro. Jacob Keppen, Laurel Lodge No. 237

This author is an unabashed professional wrestling fan and it's April 2024 in Philadelphia. So what? I'll tell you what. Early this month, on April 6th & 7th to be precise, at the Linc (home of the Philadelphia Eagles), I and thousands of other fans will flock to Philly, joined by millions around the world watching from home, to witness the grandest spectacle in the world of professional wrestling—*WRESTLEMANIA. The Showcase of the Immortals, The Granddaddy of them All*, is the annual flagship event of the WWE, a.k.a. World Wrestling Entertainment, the worldwide leader in professional wrestling; it is so much more than simply a big event. Whether you're a personal fan or not, over the years, *Wrestlemania* has become an iconic staple of American pop culture — and this year it turns 40. Forty years of the event growing to now entertain over 160,000 fans live, and more than 36 million viewers across the globe. But what's really important — I'm finally going! Professional wrestling's tenure in America is as old or older as that of most of the major sports, and to understand this phenomenon you must look to the past. You have to go way back; back further than guys like Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant; back further than Bobo Brazil and Bruno Sammartino.

Frank Gotch is one of the pillars of professional wrestling. He became one of the fastest-rising grapplers in the world, and helped launch the sport's popularity into the stratosphere. A world champion and a brother, this is Frank Gotch.

Frank Alvin Gotch was born on April 27th, 1877 on a small farm near Humboldt, Iowa. He was of German descent, the son of Frederick Rudolph and Amelia Gotch. As a teen, Gotch took an interest in wrestling, eventually taking up the sport. He emerged victorious in his first match on April 2, 1899. Adopting the spinning toe-hold as his devastating signature move, Gotch earned a reputation by vanquishing local challengers.

Wrestling then was vastly different from what we have today. Modern professional wrestling, while extremely difficult and requiring world-class athleticism, isn't a legiti-



mate competition; it is heavily-choreographed performance art. The talent in the ring conveys storylines to the audience through the physical medium of wrestling.

In Gotch's day, professional wrestling was a legitimate competitive sport, akin to today's amateur wrestling in high schools, colleges, and the Olympics. Two competitors battle to be the true winner in a true contest of strength and skill.

Also in Gotch's day, wrestling matches were **long**. One of Gotch's most important matches in his young career came on June 16, 1899, when he faced his stiffest competition yet in the form of "a furniture dealer from a neighboring town." The two battled for nearly two hours before Gotch succumbed to his opponent. Impressed by the young Gotch, the mysterious man gave Gotch his card, revealing himself to be reigning American Heavyweight Champion, Dan McLeod. Gotch impressed another former American Heavyweight Champion, "Farmer" Martin Burns, who later became Gotch's mentor, tutoring him to wrestling greatness in both Iowa and the Yukon.

Returning from a successful tour in the Yukon, Gotch challenged the then current reigning American Heavyweight Champion Tom Jenkins. Although he lost that first match, Gotch finally captured the elusive title in January of 1904. He lost the belt back to Jenkins before ultimately regaining it, then repeating that process again in 1906 against opponent Fred Beell. After recapturing the belt from Beell, Gotch set his sights on a bigger target — the biggest target in the world of professional wrestling — George Hackenschmidt. Known as "The Russian Bear," Hackenschmidt won honors all over Europe before defeating Jenkins to be known as the Undisputed World Heavyweight Champion. Make no mistake about it, Hackenschmidt was the best wrestler of the day. After ignoring the American's challenges, Hackenschmidt finally relented and granted him an opportunity in 1908. For nearly two hours, at Dexter Park Pavilion in Chicago, Illinois, the two squared off with the championship on the line. Using speed, and a bit of brute force, Frank Gotch made his opponent give up, becoming the champion of the professional wrestling world.

The undisputed king of professional wrestling, Frank Gotch became a national sensation. He was invited to the White House by President Theodore Roosevelt. He toured the world as the star of a play. When he went to a Chicago Cubs game, almost all of the players asked for his autograph. The height of Gotch's superstardom, and its impact on the sport as a whole, came on September 4, 1911, when he took on Hackenschmidt in the rematch of the century. In front of 30,000 fans at the newly-opened Comiskey Park, Gotch once again defended his title against Hackenschmidt.

Outside of wrestling and being one of the most popular men in the country, Frank Gotch was also reportedly a Freemason. The website Iowa DeMolay contains the following entry on the Gotch Chapter:

Gotch Chapter was active from 1949 to 1973 and was sponsored by Eastern Star Lodge #195 A.F. & A.M. The chapter was named in honor of Frank Alvin Gotch who was a

farmer, automobile dealer, and prominent local mason of Eastern Star Lodge #195 A.F. & A.M. that is best known for his heavyweight wrestling career.

Records of Freemasonry in Iowa verify the existence of Eastern Star Lodge #195 in the appropriate timeframe and, while I lack any other confirming documentation, I am comfortable in the belief that Frank Gotch was a brother Mason.

Gotch reigned as champion for nearly five years, only vanquishing the title once he retired in 1913. He traveled with a circus as a showman for a few years of his retirement, and reportedly contemplated a run for the office of Governor in Iowa, but it was not meant to be. He suffered from health issues, chiefly kidney failure, and passed away at the young age of 40. Though he may have joined the grand architect of the universe at an extremely young age, the legacy of Gotch lives on.

As the first true sports entertainer the world has ever seen, Gotch was much more than just a prolific athlete. His impact on his sport and what it later became was like that of Babe Ruth's on baseball and Arnold Palmer's on golf. On top of being a fantastic competitor, he was a national sensation, paving the way for all the future stars who came after him. Without Frank Gotch you don't have Lou Thesz; you don't have Bruno Sammartino or Pedro Morales; there is no Hulk Hogan or the Rock, or Stone Cold Steve Austin. The "supershow" that is *Wrestlemania*, about to launch this April, owes a ton to brother Frank Gotch. ♦



Schedules & Departments



18TH DISTRICT LODGE COMMUNICATIONS

AUDUBON-PARKSIDE No. 218
3rd Thursday
@ Laurel Temple
629 Stone Road
Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

MERCHANTVILLE No. 119
2nd Thursday
@ Merchantville Temple
6926 Park Avenue
Merchantville, NJ 08109

CAMPANA DE LIBERTAD NO. 376
4th Tuesday
@ Merchantville
6926 Park Avenue
Merchantville, NJ 08109

MOZART No. 121
1st Tuesday
@ Merchantville Temple
6926 Park Avenue
Merchantville, NJ 08109

COLLINGSWOOD-CLOUD No. 101
2nd Tuesday
@ Haddonfield Temple
16 East Kings Highway
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

RISING SUN No. 15
1st & 3rd Wednesday
@ Haddonfield Temple
16 East Kings Highway
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

LAUREL No. 237
1st & 3rd Friday
@ Laurel Temple
629 Stone Road
Laurel Springs, NJ 08021

USS NEW JERSEY No. 62
3rd Monday
@ Merchantville Temple
6926 Park Avenue
Merchantville, NJ 08109

LAZARUS No. 303
1st Monday
@ Haddonfield Temple
16 East Kings Highway
Haddonfield, NJ 08033



Official Visits of the District Deputy Grand Master

Date

Lodge/Location

Wed. 2/7

WM Pat Gorman

Rising Sun No. 15

(@ Haddonfield Temple)

Fri. 2/16

WM Keith Verrico

Laurel No. 237

(@ Laurel Temple)

Tue. 3/5

WM Pete Buchert

Mozart No. 121

(@ Merchantville Temple)

Tue. 3/26

WM Dan Madrigal

Campana de Libertad No. 376

(@ Merchantville Temple)

Mon. 4/1

WM James Dickinson

Lazarus No. 303

(@ Haddonfield Temple)

Tue. 4/9

WM Jason Miller

Collingswood-Cloud No. 101

(@ Haddonfield Temple)

Thu. 4/11

WM Andy Knaus

Merchantville No. 119

(@ Merchantville Temple)

Mon. 4/15

WM Jim Stapleton

USS New Jersey No. 62

(@ Merchantville Temple)

Thu. 4/18

WM Don Elfreth

Audubon-Parkside No. 218

(@ Laurel Temple)

OFFICIAL VISIT and GLI REQUIREMENTS

At January's District Lodge of Instruction, the District Ritual Instructor announced the ritual work that our District's lodges will be required to exemplify at Official Visits throughout the months of February, March and April, and at our GLI in June:

Official Visits (see table within this issue for dates)

All lodges will be required to exemplify the following ritual at Official Visits:

1. An Opening
2. A Ballot for Membership by Initiation
3. First section of your choice of Degree (EA, FC, or MM)

If you are already working on a Degree at the time of your OV, you may exemplify that degree if you so choose.

GLI (June 12, 2024 at Merchantville Temple)

Select Lodges will be assigned these items in advance or, for opening and closing, will be selected at random at the GLI:

1. An Opening (a randomly selected lodge will be chosen at GLI for this purpose)
2. A changeover to the EA degree
3. EA Exam (for 2 candidates)
4. A changeover to the FC degree
5. First section of the FC degree
6. A Closing (a randomly selected lodge will be chosen at GLI for this purpose) ♦

2024 DLI/GLI Schedule

18th District MW&PM Association at 6:45pm before DLI at 7:30pm

Wednesday

Lodge/Location

January 10

Audubon-Parkside No. 218
(@ Audubon Temple)

February 14

Campana de Libertad No. 376
(@ Merchantville Temple)

March 13

Collingswood-Cloud No. 101
(@ Haddonfield Temple)

April 10

Laurel No. 237
(@ Laurel Temple)

May 8

Lazarus No. 303
(@ Haddonfield Temple)

June 12-GLI

Merchantville No. 119 &
Mozart No. 121
(@ Merchantville Temple)

September 11

Rising Sun No. 15
(@ Haddonfield Temple)

October 9

USS New Jersey No. 62
(@ Merchantville Temple)

November 13

Incoming Masters and
Qualification Teams only
(@ Merchantville Temple)

This Month



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LZ OV	2 MZ	3 RS Program: The Interrogatories, by SD John Hudson	4 OES #140	5 OES #201 LL	6 St. Stephen's Conclave @ Haddonfield
7	8	9 CC OV	10 M&W and DLI Laurel @ Laurel Temple	11 Thursday Night at the Rite (see flyer) MV OV	12 RS Social Hour (see flyer)	13 GL Education Committee 3 Craft Degrees Explained (see flyer)
14	15 US OV	16	17 RS Table Lodge Simba Grotto (see flyer)	18 AP OV	19 LL	20
21	22 PASSOVER	23 CL	24 PASSOVER	25 BLOOD DRIVE @ Merchantville 12noon-5pm (see flyer) Thursday Night at the Rite (see flyer)	26 Scottish Rite Dinner	27 JGWs Reception (GL Blackout Date)
28	29 PASSOVER	30				

- Blue Lodges
- District & GL Events
- Special / Social Events
- Appendant Bodies

AP = Audubon-Parkside
 CC = Collingswood-Cloud
 CL = Campana de Libertad

LL = Laurel
 LZ = Lazarus
 MV = Merchantville

MZ = Mozart
 RS = Rising Sun
 US = USSNJ

This Month's

18th District Events

The following pages are intended to promote Masonic events and are offered as a courtesy by the 18th District Light to the event sponsors. The 18th District Light is not responsible for the accuracy of the information, event cancellations, nor for accepting reservations. For information or reservations for an event, please follow the instructions given in the event flyer.

TRAVELING



IT'S WHAT WE DO



Rising Sun Lodge

**Monthly SECOND Friday
Masons & Prospects**

SOCIAL HOUR

**Friday,
April 12, 2024**

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm



**Invite a guest who
might be interested
in Freemasonry!**

For further information contact Jeff Earnhart
at jearnha@gmail.com OR (856) 834-6854

Spring into life.

Give blood.



18th Masonic District Blood Drive

Thursday, April 25th

Noon – 5:00 PM

18th Masonic District at the
Merchantville Masonic Temple
6926 Park Ave
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

For an appointment, please visit or click redcrossblood.org
and search 18th Masonic
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Thank you for your support.

Looking Forward



Upcoming Events

Rising Sun Lodge

No. 15, F. & A.M.



Presents

Tim Boyle's Gettysburg

April
6th
2024

Join Worshipful Brother Tim Boyle as he guides you through a **FREE** two-day tour of the Gettysburg battlefield. Tim is an accomplished Civil War re-enactor with a wealth of knowledge about the largest and bloodiest battle ever fought in North America. Be prepared to do a little walking and a lot of getting in and out of your car — rain or shine!

April
7th
2024

RSVP to WB Tim Boyle
tboyle204@comcast.net
By March 31st
Please make your own
hotel arrangements for
one or both days.



ITINERARY

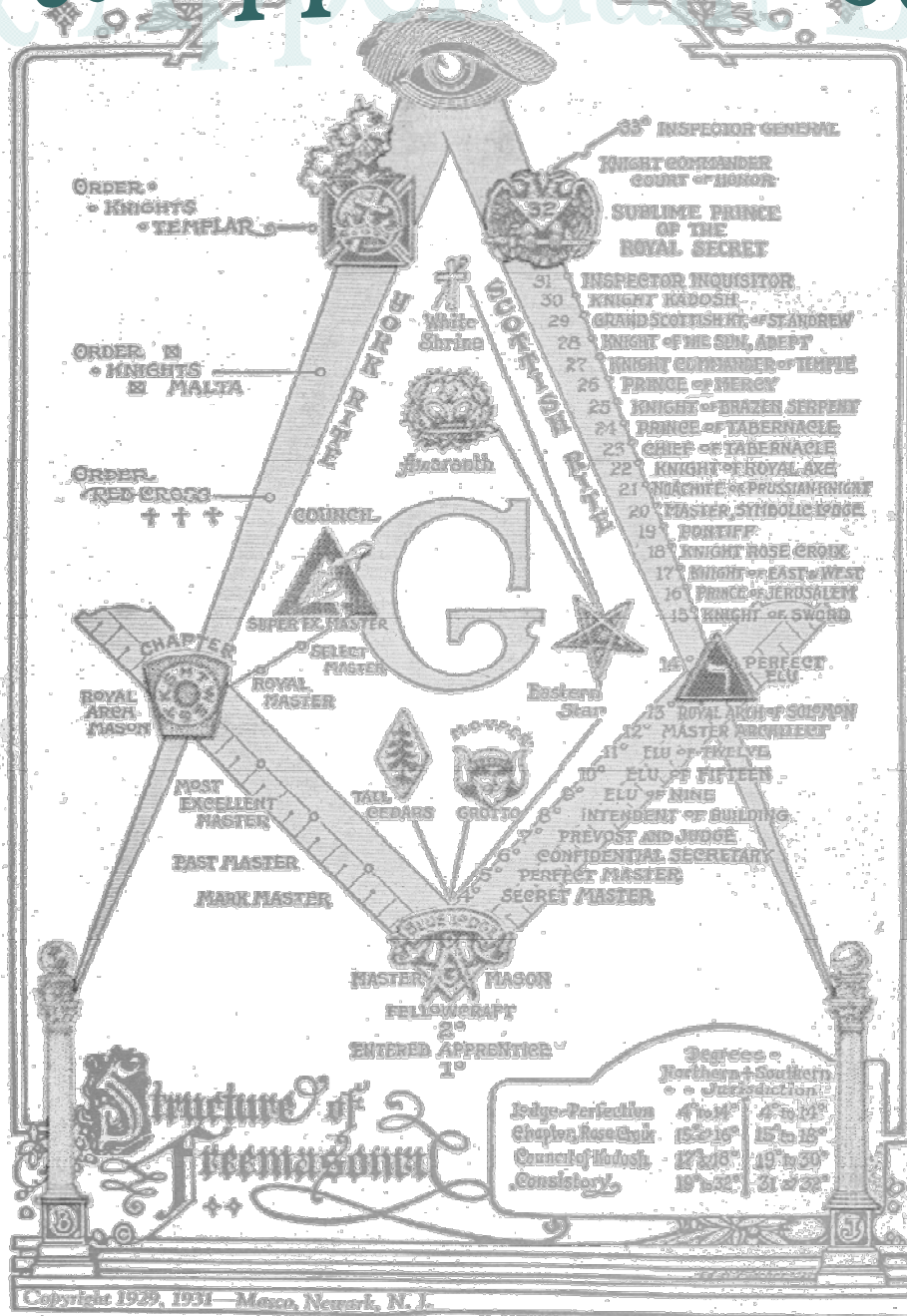
Saturday, April 6

- Meet at Visitors Center 9am
- Carpool/convoy around the battlefield
- Lunch break
- Day 1 tour ends at 4pm
- Dinner

Sunday, April 7

- Tour begins 8:30am
- Finish up 1-2pm
- Head home

Outside the 18th District, GL & Appendant Bodies



THURSDAY NIGHT AT THE RITE

SEASON 5 SCHEDULE

EPISODE 1

[JOIN THE RITE NIGHT](#)

@ 7:30PM

Thursday, Feb 8, 2024

8:00 PM ET

[Add to Calendar](#)

Intendant of the Building

Based on the Old Testament story of King David and his assignment to his son, the future King Solomon. Core values explored are Reverence for God, Integrity, and Service to Humanity.

Presented by Valley of Pittsburgh

The evening will also present the Valley's distinctive contemporary interpretation of the degree.

INTENDANT OF THE BUILDING

18TH DEGREE

EPISODE 2

[JOIN THE RITE NIGHT](#)

@ 7:30PM

Thursday, Feb 15, 2024

8:00 PM ET

[Add to Calendar](#)

Knight of the Rose Croix

The teachings of Jesus of Nazareth are used to exemplify the universal principles of life. Core value explored is Integrity.

Presented by the Valleys of New Jersey

KNIGHT OF THE ROSE CROIX

18TH DEGREE

EPISODE 3

[JOIN THE RITE NIGHT](#)

@ 7:30PM

Thursday, Feb 29, 2024

8:00 PM ET

[Add to Calendar](#)

Master Elect

King Solomon learns of his sentence from which there is no appeal. Core values explored are Reverence for God and Justice.

Presented by Valley of The Hudson

The evening will also present the Valley's distinctive contemporary interpretation of the degree.

MASTER ELECT

18TH DEGREE

EPISODE 4

[JOIN THE RITE NIGHT](#)

@ 7:30PM

Thursday, Mar 14, 2024

8:00 PM ET

[Add to Calendar](#)

Prince of Jerusalem

The court of King Darius contemplates what motivates men. Core value explored is Reverence for God.

Presented by Valley of Michigan

The evening will also present the Valley's distinctive contemporary interpretation of the degree.

PRINCE OF JERUSALEM

18TH DEGREE

THURSDAY NIGHT AT THE RITE

EPISODE 5

[JOIN THE RITE NIGHT](#)
@ 7:30PM

Thursday, Mar 28, 2024
8:00 PM ET

[+ Add to Calendar](#)

Master of the Ninth Arch.
The degree dramatizes the dangers encountered as men search for the lost word. Core value explored is Reverence for God.

Presented by Valley of Ford Wayne



EPISODE 6

[JOIN THE RITE NIGHT](#)
@ 7:30PM

Thursday, Apr 11, 2024
8:00 PM ET

[+ Add to Calendar](#)

Master Ad Vitam.
Benedict Arnold seeks pardon for his treason. Core values explored are Devotion to Country and Integrity.

Presented by Valley of Madison



20TH DEGREE

EPISODE 7

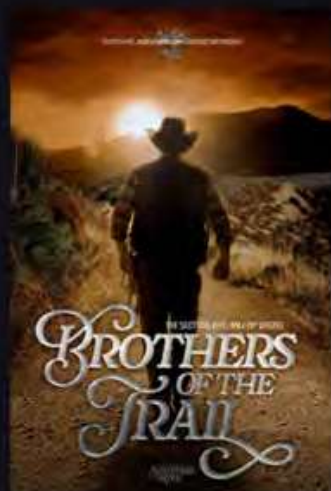
[JOIN THE RITE NIGHT](#)
@ 7:30PM

Thursday, Apr 25, 2024
8:00 PM ET

[+ Add to Calendar](#)

Brothers of the Trail.
Along the Oregon Trail in 1840, one pioneer lives up to his sacred obligation to care for his brother. Core values explored are Reverence for God and Integrity.

Presented by Valley of Buffalo



19TH DEGREE



The Grand Lodge *of* **NEW JERSEY**

**GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

THREE CRAFT DEGREES: A DETAILED EXPLANATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024

THE ENTERED APPRENTICE — RW Michael S. Neuberger
THE FELLOWCRAFT — RW Michael A. Czech
THE MASTER MASON — RW Daniel P. Schittone

The allegory of the three craft degrees take a Mason through lessons of his entire life. As we learn more about the meanings, symbolisms, and writings of each, we interpret a degree within our own frame of reference. Join our presenters to review these degrees and their interpretations based on extensive study from several sources into a cohesive manner of application to the world around us and how we choose to live within it.

OPEN TO ALL MASTER MASONS

8:15AM Breakfast & Registration 9:00AM- 12:00PM Seminar

Dress Code Business Casual

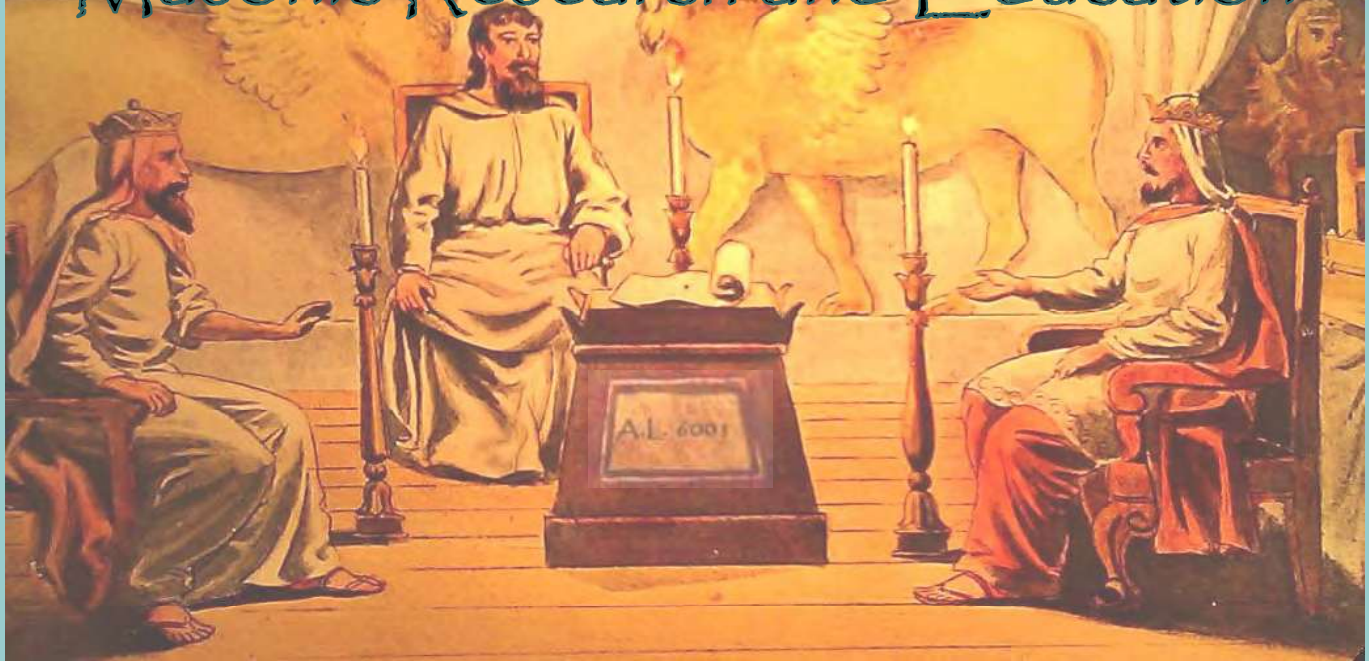
Fellowship Center, 1114 Oxmead Road, Burlington, New Jersey
FREE ADMISSION, REGISTRATION REQUIRED. RSVP BY 4/6/24

Questions? Contact R.W. Mohammad Yatim, G.E. at

484-995-3337 or mayatim@hotmail.com

Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/mwkvstxc>

New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education



- Are you looking for more “light” in Masonry?
- Do you seek the challenges of Masonic scholarship?
- Do you enjoy crafting and presenting your own work?
- Do you appreciate the fellowship of like-minded brothers?



Join L.O.R.E.

The New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education No. 1786

The purpose of the New Jersey Lodge of Masonic Research and Education is to foster the education of the Craft at large through prepared research and open discussion of topics concerning Masonic history, symbolism, philosophy, and current events.

L.O.R.E. meets on the second Saturdays of March, June, September and December at Union Lodge No. 19, 60 Cedar Avenue, North Brunswick, New Jersey
To learn more, visit our website at <http://njlore1786.org>

All Master Masons are welcome at our meetings!

DeMolay Can Help!

As part of the Masonic family, Moorestown-Excelsior Chapter Order of DeMolay is available to support your activities, whether you are a Masonic Lodge, a Chapter of the Eastern Star, or an Amaranth Court.



- **Need Meal Service for a special Meeting, an Installation, a Table Lodge? Don't sweat it we can handle it.**
- **Need a program for your meetings? We have a variety of presentations to inform and entertain:**
 - ◆ **Ceremony of Lights — An explanation of a DeMolay's seven cardinal virtues. Appropriate for any meeting.**
 - ◆ **Flower Talk w/Mother's Watch — A talk geared to honor mothers — great presentation for May and Mother's Day, or anytime.**
 - ◆ **Father's Talk — A talk geared to honor fathers — great presentation for June and Father's Day, or any month.**
 - ◆ **Shield Talk — An explanation of the emblem of our order that breaks down the emblem piece by piece. An excellent presentation anytime.**
 - ◆ **History Talk — A presentation on the persecution of Jacques DeMolay and how his namesake Order came to be. Excellent for any meeting or occasion.**

We want to grow DeMolay, and it's younger affiliate body, Squires, for the benefit of young men everywhere. If you know a young man between the ages of 9 to 21, who would like to learn life lessons, develop leadership skills, make life-long friends, and have a good time, then DeMolay & Squires are the Organizations for them.

Contact: RW Glenn E. Latshaw at bigdadyglenn@aol.com

MYSTIC ORDER OF VEILED PROPHETS OF THE ENCHANTED REALM

*Look for this month's
meeting details
on Facebook*



I WANT YOU FOR SIMBA GROTTTO

Write to Mark at simbagrotto@gmail.com
or call Monarch Mike Mattes @ 856-516-2061
for an application today!

See us on Facebook



Mt. Laurel High Twelve Club #770

Are you a Master Mason in Good Standing?

Do you enjoy Friendly Conversation?

Do you Eat Lunch?

Are you available the Fourth Thursday of the month at Noon?

Join us for lunch at the Bob Evans Restaurant on
Fellowship & Route 73

Join in APRIL 2024 PAY NO DUES until 2025

Enjoy all the benefits of membership for **FREE.**

Try it out first, you are sure to join.

Call/Email Nick Vettese, President

856-261-7423 / nvettese@gmail.com

Conrad Dombkiewicz, Secretary / Treasurer

609-654-8365 / cwdombkiewicz@verizon.net

for more information

SEE YOU THERE

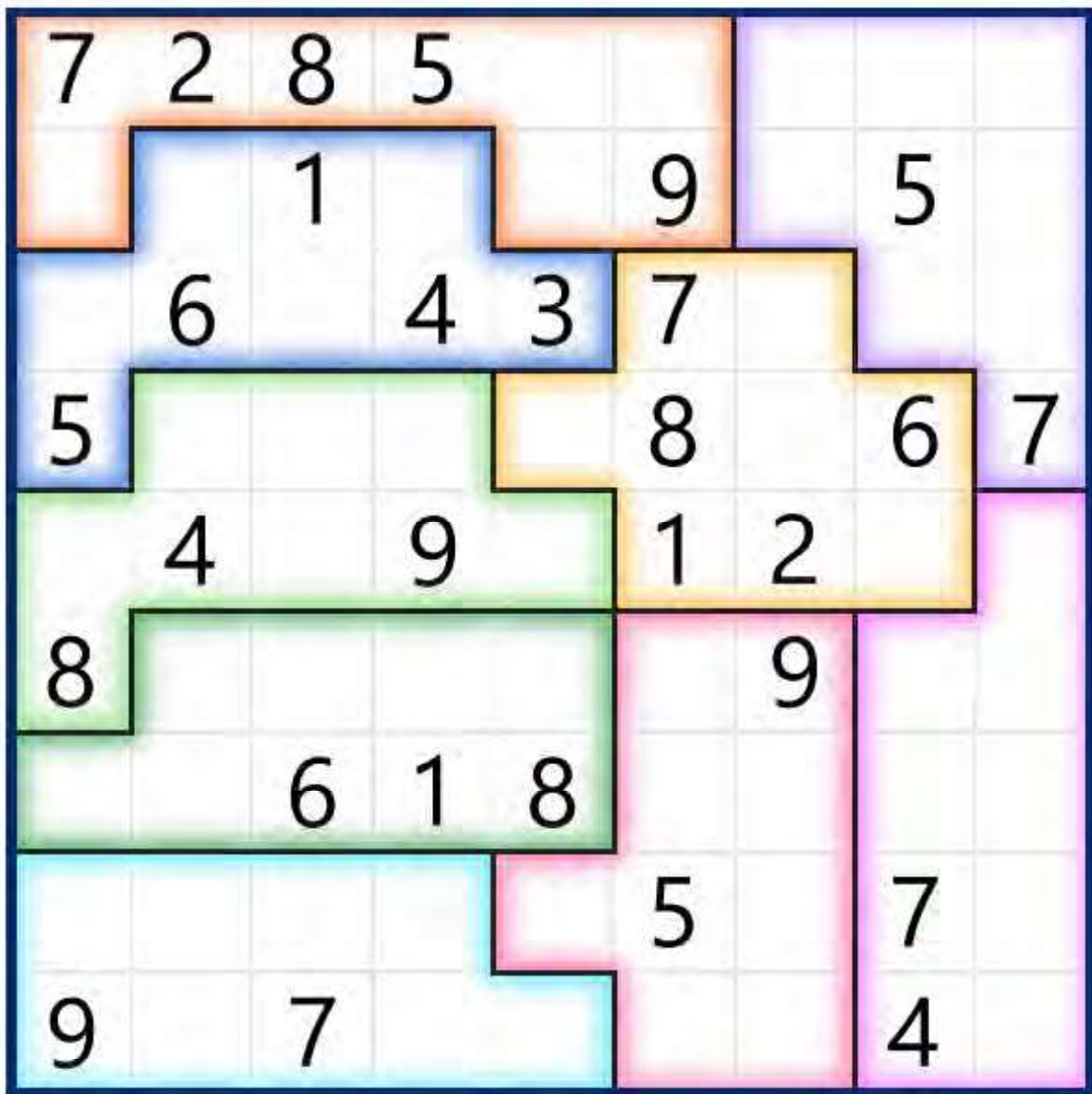
Entertainment

Puzzle Pages



IRREGULAR SUDOKU

Irregular Sudoku differs from regular Sudoku in that the boundaries of the boxes, each containing 9 smaller squares, are not uniform squares, but irregular shapes. The rules are otherwise the same. Enter the digits 1-9 in each of the irregular boxes so that no digit is repeated in any row, column, or within a box. On a difficulty scale of 1 to 6 (easy to hard) this irregular Sudoku is rated as 4 in difficulty.



AN OLDIE, BUT A GOODIE



You are standing at your kitchen sink with two empty fishbowls. One holds exactly 5 quarts of water, while the other holds exactly 3 quarts of water, when filled to the brim. You have a recipe that calls for exactly 4 quarts of water. Using only the two fishbowls (and water from the tap in the sink), how can you measure exactly the 4 quarts of water that you need? (The answer will appear in next month's issue)

Puzzle Solutions

IRREGULAR SUDOKU

7	2	8	5	1	6	3	9	4
3	7	1	8	4	9	6	5	2
2	6	9	4	3	7	5	8	1
5	1	2	3	9	8	4	6	7
6	4	5	9	7	1	2	3	8
8	5	3	7	2	4	9	1	6
4	9	6	1	8	3	7	2	5
1	3	4	2	6	5	8	7	9
9	8	7	6	5	2	1	4	3

MARCH CLASSIC PEN & PAPER CHALLENGE

The “trick” is to think outside the box, literally. In the illustrated solution, note how lines 2, 3, and 4 must extend beyond the boundaries of the 9-dot box.

