



ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS

APRIL 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



Above: What is this remarkable mineral? See the article by Paolo Sanchez on page 4!

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Aquamarine

Some of you celebrated Aquamarine as your birthstone last month – but don't expect to find one like that shown above! The Dom Pedro – the world's largest faceted aquamarine gem at 10,363 carats – is now on exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History. The "baby," as the Dom Pedro is referred to by the group that made it all happen, has had a long journey, but it is now "home" at the Smithsonian where they all hoped it would be. Read more about this amazing stone and its journey to the Smithsonian at: <http://mineralsciences.si.edu/collections/dom-pedro/>

At right: The largest piece of the original crystal mined in Pedra Azul, Minas Gerais, Brazil was approximately two feet in length and weighed almost 60 pounds. Photo courtesy of Bernd Munsteiner.





Editor's Corner

Dear Members,

What an exciting month! The Workshop, the Annual Show, a great speaker at the Program Meeting and the field trip to Lavic!

There is not enough room in this report to express my appreciation to everyone who worked at set-up, take-down and at the events during this year's show! A steady stream of customers at the Kitchen proved that Victor Castellano's "healthy menu" was a real hit! Several people asked us at the Door Prize table to send them an invitation to the next show. It is my hope that the Board will use the information

on the raffle ticket stubs to do just that. The "front-end" folks of greeters and raffle ticket sales were on their feet all during the show and those at the Kids Zone, grab bags, demonstrations and silent auction never stopped moving! The Displays were excellent! While the show did not earn as much revenue as in previous years, and there was some theft in the dealer area, it was without a doubt one of the most fun for our members, dealers and guests! I hope to have the opportunity to thank you all in person for your help in making it so!

I heard from Carolyn and Elizabeth that this year's turnout for the Lavic Siding field trip was the largest ever - with 60 people from the PLS and other local clubs. Please send

me photos of the field trip for the Yearbook!

Speaking of which - I collected all of our activities for 2016 into a Yearbook and submitted it for judging by the CFMS and AFMS. We should learn if it was judged favorably at the CFMS/AFMS show in June.

I also submitted our web site to the CFMS for competitive judging. Our web site has consistently ranked among the top 10 nationally and I am working with Mona Ross to schedule a program meeting where we can review how to navigate the web site. That's all for now, and we all wish our President a speedy recovery!

..... *Mark*

Mark Nelson, Editor

Meeting and General Society Information

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March Board Meeting by Mark Nelson, Secretary

The board approved the minutes of the November and December meetings ◊ The 2017 preliminary budget was approved, as was the show budget. ◊ The show was discussed and a final show meeting was planned for the workshop. ◊ Joan Harrison was appointed to chair the Education Committee. ◊ Mark Nelson reported that he had ordered new shirts, with a breast pocket, and that they should be on hand before the workshop. ◊ Marcia Goetz will provide a draft of the Operating Rules for board review prior to posting them for member input. ◊

March Program Meeting

Dr. Aaron Celestian, curator of gems and minerals at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles spoke about "Living in a Mineral World" and answered questions about minerals and the environment.

Jennifer Nishimura gave a great presentation on Blue Lace Agate (one of her favorite minerals) and we all enjoyed the nice refreshments that Jennifer Jang and Chris Kyte



April Program Meeting

Ed Imlay will present his "Introduction to Rocks". This is the talk that he gives so successfully to school and civic groups. This will be of special interest to those members who will be assisting the Education Committee!

Come early at 6 p.m. and enjoy coffee and light refreshments by Cindy Lamarche's Hospitality Committee. Bring rocks and minerals for identification! The display table is for members to show items they have collected at recent field trips or in their travels.



Membership Information and Meeting Locations

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Newsletter Articles, ads or corrections should be sent to the editor: **Mark Nelson**, P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena CA 91117-0025 or by email to pasadenalapidary@aol.com

Membership per calendar year is only \$25, \$15 for a second adult member in the same house. Junior members and the third or more adult members at the same house are \$10. Initiation fee is \$2.00 per person and membership badges are \$9.00. Renewals are due by the October General Meeting and delinquent after December 1st. Mail checks for membership to P.O. Box 5025, Pasadena CA 91117-0025.

Website:

www.pasadenalapidarysociety.org
Email: <pasadenalapidary@aol.com>

Board Meetings: 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of the month at Mimi's Café, 500 Huntington Dr, Monrovia CA. All members are welcome to attend!

Program Meetings: 6:45 - 8:45 PM on the third Tuesday of each month at the Pasadena Central Library at 285 E. Walnut Street. Doors open at 6pm. **Guests are welcome!**

Field Trips are scheduled each month. Refer to the bulletin and website for date, location and information

Workshop: The use of the club's equipment is available to members from 9am to 5pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month in our shop at 97 E. Montecito Ave., Sierra Madre. There are two sessions - 9am to 1pm and 1pm to 5pm. Equipment proficiency is required and instruction is free. Fees are \$3 per session or \$5 for a full day. Bring lunch!

Safety: Liability waivers, eye protection, closed-toe-flat-heel shoes and machinery safe-practices are mandatory for all participants. Workshops are for adult members and junior members 8 and older with adult supervision.



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The Annual Club Show is held the second weekend of March at the Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive, San Marino.

Advertising - a business card size ad is available for \$99 per year or \$10 per edition. Submit text, logos, business card or other copy to the editor at the address or email listed on this page.



Joan's Corner

EDUCATIONAL OUTEACH

By Joan Harrison
Chair, Education Committee



Schools are back from vacation and I am booking presentations for local schools and groups. This is a great time to be first in line to have my popular rocks and minerals presentation scheduled for your favorite school, home education, church, community and youth group. To join the Education Committee or to schedule our special educational presentation to your group or school contact me by phone at (323)662-3074 or at: <so_lartech551@yahoo.com>.

Identification: Would you like to know the name of a rock you have acquired? If you can polish or knock a small window off of a corner without damaging the rest of the specimen, please do so to expose the inside. Set it on the table at the rear of the meeting room with a note asking "What is this?"

Display Table: At the April Program Meeting you may display items of general interest, workshop projects and items you collected on field trips. Celebrate our gemstone of the month - **Diamond** - by wearing or displaying something made from this month's birthstone!

April Birthstone poem - the Diamond

"She who from April dates her years,
Diamonds shall wear, lest bitter tears
For vain repentance flow."

Source: Gregorian Calendar 1582

WORKSHOP

This Month's Workshop Program: Lavic Cabochons



The April work shop class will be taught by Ed Imlay. The class will start at 9:30 or 10:00, A beaded chain bracelet will be the project. Materials needed will be jewelry round nose pliers and wire cutters. Some extra pliers will be available. Craft wire — either #22 GA, #24 GA as well as 20 GA will be used to construct the bracelet. Chain and

4 mm to 5 mm beads will be available. Please bring your own if you have them.

I was very pleased by the turnout at the March field trip to the Lavic Siding area. A future workshop program will focus on how to turn those pieces of Jasper and Thulite into cabochons! Members are welcome to work on their own projects, to peruse the Library and to work on the History display case.

Park on the street or in the parking lot on the east side of the building and enter through the walkway on the west side of the building.

New and current members who have not received our new safety orientation are required to do so prior to participating in workshop events. The safety orientation will start at 9am. Please contact me to schedule your orientation at: 909-593-2781 or at <gem.quest@verizon.net>.

..... Carolyn Duncan, Workshop Chair



**Welcome
New Members !!**



The Society is continually seeking new members, ideas and enthusiasm to assist us in sharing the enjoyment and understanding of earth sciences. **We welcome our newest members - Carol Burton and Holly Stinson!**

Share the lapidary and jewelry hobby! Invite your friends and neighbors to one of our monthly meetings to learn more about the Pasadena Lapidary Society! Give us the name and address of someone who might be interested and we'll send them a complimentary bulletin!



ROCK OF THE MONTH PRESENTATION

You will be surprised at the Rock Of The Month talk! I might even present my love of Beryl!

If it is interesting to you it will be interesting to all of us!

The ROTM is a fun way to share a rock, gem or mineral that you find interesting. To be scheduled to talk about an interesting rock or mineral at an upcoming meeting, sign up at the monthly meeting or email me at:



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Program Meeting Refreshments:



Program Meeting Refreshments — Thanks to Jennifer Jang and Chris Kyte for bringing refreshments to the March meeting! Elizabeth

Weston, David and Bonnie Lacy are scheduled for the April meeting! To volunteer to bring light refreshments Contact me at (626) 833-8710 or by email at

<grammielyn@verizon.net> Cindy Lamarche



Sunshine:

Ellen Ferrell continues to recover from injuries sustained from a fall at home. We hope to see her back in full swing very soon! ♦ Marlené Kyte and Phil Lahr visited Davis Coghill in Fresno . Davis sends his best! ♦ Congratulations to Danielle Sanchez, who placed 4th in the individual competition for science and she. with her St. Francis School Teammates placed 2nd overall out of 105 schools in LA Archdiocese for the 2017 Junior Academic Decathlon. They will go on to State Competition in April!

The Pasadena Lapidary Society has a Sunshine Committee to send cards and words of comfort and support and congratulations to our members who are in need or who are deserving of it. **Help me recognize them!** ... Cindy Lamarche.





On the Color of Smoky Quartz

By: Paolo Sanchez, Junior Member
Pasadena Lapidary Society

The practical mineral collector would've most likely encountered some of the mineral smoky quartz at least one time in his or her life. Whether it would be at gem shows or at rockhounding trips, this crystalline form of silicon dioxide has not really been a major interest of rockhounds. Usually, smoky quartz would just be sold as a faceting material for beginners, or as crystals serving as decor or paperweights.



Paolo Sanchez

However, in the scientific community of mineralogy, one thing about this mineral remains of interest: the color. As implied by the name, the color of smoky quartz is, well, **smoky** - ranging from a light tint of brown to a blackish hue. While many people would consider the mineral's color to be rather drab, the origin of this color is actually unique in the mineral world.

A good majority of minerals receive their color from certain elements in their intrinsic chemical composition or from the light absorption and reflection properties of the mineral's crystal lattice. These minerals are known as idiochromatic. Other forms of minerals include allocromatic minerals, where traces of accessory elements alter the absorption of different colors of light throughout the crystal lattice. Smoky quartz, however, gets its color from a rather surprising source.



Smoky Quartz with Amazonite from Colorado. Photo courtesy of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Smoky quartz is known to form in granitic pegmatites, associated with different minerals and gemstones including tourmaline, cleveandite, and aquamarine. What is unique about these pegmatites is that they contain a significant amount of radioactive elements, particularly the elements uranium, radium, and thorium. Because these elements decay from their radioactivity, they emit gamma rays that are then absorbed by the surrounding rock. When quartz (particularly clear quartz) is in close proximity to these elements, the gamma radiation that is absorbed causes aluminosilicate ion impurities [AlO₄] within

the quartz to lose an electron, forming a neutral, aluminosilicate compound which absorbs multiple colors of light.

This coalition between chemical impurities and radioactivity eventually results in the unique, brown to blackish color that gives smoky quartz its name. Fortunately, there is no need to worry about the radioactivity that smoky quartz is exposed to, for the amount of radioactivity in the quartz is so minuscule that it doesn't cause any damage to living species nor the surrounding environment.

Right: Quartz variety of Smoky Quartz from Minas Gerais, Brazil
Utah Museum of Natural History



While this rather common species of silicon dioxide is often underestimated in most of the rock collecting community, the formation of color in smoky quartz still stands as a unique and relatively rare process in the mineral world.

Right: Smoky Quartz Crystal from Australia.
Photo from mindat.org



Works Cited:

- ◇ Holden, Edward F. "Color of Smoky Quartz and Amethyst." *Color Smoky Quartz and Amethyst*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Nov. 2016
- ◇ Nassau, Kurt. "Color in Minerals." *Color in Minerals*. N.p., n.d. Web. 2 Nov. 2016.
- "Smoky Quartz." *The Quartz Page: Smoky Quartz*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Nov. 2016.
- ◇ Webster, Robert. *Practical Gemmology: A Study of the Identification of Gemstones, Pearls, and Ornamental Minerals*. New York: Arco Pub., 1978. Print.

Aquamarine Tidbits

by Mark Nelson
Pasadena Lapidary Society

Natural aquamarine is a pleochroic form of Beryl. It shows two different colors when viewed from different angles. Aquamarine can show blue from one angle and green or colorless from another.

Using only weight as a criteria to assess value overlooks condition. Two equal size aquamarine crystals, of equal weight, are not equal if one has deeper blue color and is in pristine condition while the other has an incomplete termination and abraded crystal faces due to being thrown in a bucket with similar specimens and brought down the mountain on a lame donkey. And two equal crystals of aquamarine from different localities are not equal. An aquamarine found 100 years ago on Manhattan Island, New York City is worth 1,000 times more than a comparable crystal collected in 2012 from Brazil.



(Courtesy of www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com)



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Monthly Field Trips !

We Support Lapidary Clubs!

Activities, Tips and Information

2017 Show

Before

And

After



Member Creations

Left: Gloria Biesterfeld wrapped petrified wood in sterling silver for a pendant accented with petrified wood beads. Right and below: It's hard to show the scale, but Ben Shutman is creating a man-sized cuff bracelet and shows it here before it is finished - then we'll see it at the next program meeting!



Send a photo of your creation by text to 909.996.1784 or by email to pasadenalapidary@aol.com



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Activities, Tips and Information

2017 Show

Before

And

After



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FIELD TRIPS

Stoddard Wells !

April 29th & 30th



Joe Goetz
Field Trip Chairman

Duration: Saturday and Sunday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. It is only about a 1- 1/2 hour drive from Pasadena and there is a fair amount to be collected! A potluck or a run into a Victorville restaurant will be planned for Saturday night. And later, weather permitting, a campfire back at the camp.

Material: There is jade, verde antique marble, blue dolomite, soapstone, tri colored marble and other collectibles in the area.

Bring: Bring all the usual things like a hat, sunglasses, lunch, sunscreen, water, rock hammer, a bag to put rock into and dress in layers. April can still be cool in the morning and quite warm in the afternoon and downright cold at night.

Overnight options: It is close enough that a day trip is easy to do. However, camping offers unique opportunities such as seeing the sunrise that can only be enjoyed while camping. Desert sunsets can be spectacular after a day of collecting and exploring. At night seeing the stars in the sky is absolutely fantastic, you probably didn't realize just how many stars can be seen when the city lights are dim. Camping at the site of the Tailgate Mineral Show is actually quite nice. And for non-campers Victorville offers lots of lodging possibilities - even a close-by Motel 6.

Safety: Snakes have already come out because of the warm weather. The common sense things are not putting your hands where you can't see or not walking between two large bushes because it is a place snakes like to lurk. Dress in loose jeans or pants and wear boots that provide ankle support. And, of course, be aware and look carefully at your surroundings. It's all about being careful and still having fun.

More details, maps and directions are posted on the web site and will be available at the April Program Meeting. Watch your email and the web site for any change in plans. I hope to see you out there!

Lost somewhere..... *zJoe Goetz*



Congratulations to Alyson Nishimura for winning the March Editor's Quiz and offering **Vitamin** as an example of a portman-teau! Unfortunately, there were no correct entries for the adult question. To make it easier for the adult members, this month there is only ONE question! ;-)



Prizes will be awarded at the April Program Meeting!



Editor's Quiz

Members: Can you tell which of the following are correct?

- Garnet variety almandite
- Aquamarine quartz
- Amethyst beryl

The answers to this month's quiz can be found in this bulletin or on the Internet. The first Adult and Junior Member to correctly answer this question will win a special prize at the next Program Meeting. Email your answer to the Society's email address: <pasadenalapidary@aol.com>.

FEDERATION NEWS

By Joe Goetz

CFMS - California Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Calling All Kids — and Adults to Enter Displays in the CFMS/AFMS Show

By Jim Brace-Thompson

Exhibiting is fun! It lets us share what we've found, bought, or made. When displaying at a gem show, we not only get to show off our own collections and handiwork but also to learn from others, seeing display techniques, getting advice, sharing tips, and forging bonds of friendship through mutual interests. 2017 brings a special bonus: the opportunity to compete not just in a local club show or a regional CFMS show, but the combined regional and national CFMS/AFMS Show & Convention taking place June 9-11 in Ventura, California. The national show rotates to California only once every seven years, so this is the year to take the plunge and enter a display. An outstanding exhibit can earn you both a regional CFMS trophy and a national AFMS trophy!

For an application and more information - or to read the CFMS Newsletter - see the website at: www.cfmsinc.org/

AFMS - American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Rockhound Soap Box — by John Martin

Conservation & Legislation Chair



I am sure by now you have all heard or read something about the new rule or regulation being proposed by the BLM on Fossil Collecting on Public Land managed by the BLM. The Regulation is further implementation of the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (PRPA). The public comment period ended on February 6, 2017. There was a large effort originating in California by the Southern California Paleontological Society, a member of CFMS, to draft a letter of concern and submit during the public comment period. The letter was drafted and circulated throughout the CFMS and to the other Regional Federations for review. Several good articles were written and circulated during this time period on the subject and the impact of the proposed Regulation by several federation members.

Some of the contributors of articles were Mike Nelson, Lisbet Thorsen, Andrew Hoekstra and Karol McQueary. I would like to thank them for their enormous effort they put forth in the research and documentation required to formulate the response letter. Karol and Lisbet did an outstanding job of getting the response letter out to a multitude of clubs/societies, professional organizations and all of the regional federations. You were asked to read the information and encouraged to be a signatory on the official letter. That was sent to the BLM on February 6, 2017.

If you were one of those signatories on Karol's letter I want to thank you for your participation. By adding your name to the letter you did two things. First you showed your concern for the rule making process and your willingness to make your voice heard on this important issue on the future of legal fossil collecting on Public Lands. Second, by adding your information to the letter, you are now on record and if and when there is another comment period, you will be allowed to add more comments to the record. So, thank you to all of the people, Clubs, Societies and groups which added your names to the letter. Your effort made the BLM at least notice that there are Rockhounds out here and we are concerned about our Public Lands and the recreational activities they provide.



Thank you one and all !



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TIPS, HINTS AND SAFETY

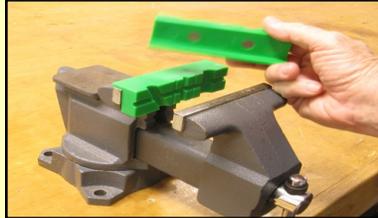
Avoiding Vise Scratches

Bench Tips – By Brad Smith



Any scratches on your jewelry work take extra time and effort to remove, so it makes sense to avoid scratches when using a bench vise. A quick fix is to use a scrap of leather or plastic on each side of your piece as you close the vise.

A little more convenient are plastic jaw protectors (shown on the right) that magnetically attach to the jaws (see Amazon.com for bargains).



And, if your vise has replaceable jaws, you can make a duplicate set of jaws from high density plastic such as Nylon or Delrin. These not only hold pieces securely without worry of scratch marks but are handy for bending sheet metal as well.

To make them, just remove the steel jaws and use them as a template. Cut two pieces of plastic from a 1/2 inch sheet of scrap. Then clamp the steel jaw over the plastic and drill through the steel side into the plastic. Finally, use a larger drill to countersink the plastic for the screw heads. Plastic can be obtained from the scrap bin at a local plastics store, can be purchased online, or can be repurposed from an old kitchen cutting board.

LOCAL ROCK AND GEM SHOWS

April

Mar 30 - Apr 2 JOSHUA TREE: Annual show; Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree, Sportsman's Club; 6225 Sunburst Street; Daily 9-6; Free Admission; Dealers featuring rocks, minerals, fossils, gemstones, jewelry, beads, lapidary supplies & items, and so much more! www.jtsportsmansclub.com

Look for the gem shows symbol in the calendar on page 8.



1 - 2 TORRANCE: 68th Annual show; South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society, Ken Miller Recreation Center; 3341 Torrance Boulevard; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; Artisan's Gift Shop, fluorescent mineral exhibit, demonstrations, children's activities, prize drawings, door prizes, slabs, lots of rough rock, used equipment, books, magazines, silent auction and visit our Kitchen for the best chili and desserts in town. www.southbaylapidaryandmineralsociety.com

Club shows are a great source for lapidary material! Please plan to attend one of the lapidary club shows listed on this page, and wear your club badge, shirt or vest when you do! - Editor

8 - 9 MARIPOSA: Annual show; Mariposa Gem and Mineral Club, Mariposa Fairgrounds; 5007 Fairgrounds Road; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$3; Lots of vendors, silent auction, raffle, geode cutting, food, free admission to the California Mining and Mineral Museum during the show.

22 - 23 NEWBURY PARK: Annual show; Conejo Gem & Mineral Club, Borchard Park Community Center; 190 Reino Rd at Borchard Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Minerals, rocks, fossils, gems, crystals, beads & jewelry, member exhibits, demonstrations and fun for all ages. Free hourly door prizes, plant sales and a snack bar. www.cgamc.org

23 CULVER CITY: Bead Bazaar, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 4117 Overland Avenue at Culver Blvd. 2016, 10am -5pm. Admission \$5 or free with downloaded post card from www.beadsocietyla.org/bazaar.php; FREE parking. Wearable Art & Custom Made Jewelry, Antique & Contemporary Beads & Collectibles, FREE Jewelry Making Demos.

29 - 30 LANCASTER: Annual show; Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club, Lancaster High School; 44701 32nd St W ; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission.



Save used postage stamps for the CFMS!

Why throw away these mini works of art? Former CFMS President Dick Pankey leads the Federation's effort to help fund the cure for cancer through the donation of used postage stamp for international collectors. Give them to our Federation Director, Joe Goetz, at any Society function!



Society T-Shirts, hats and vests are available to our members through Marcia Goetz, Membership Chair. Vests = \$10, T-Shirts = \$15, Hats = \$11 and replacement member badges = \$9 (specify either magnet or pin mount). Phone: 626-914-5030 or Email: <joenmar1@verizon.net>

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APRIL
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OUR MISSION

The Pasadena Lapidary Society serves to educate its members and the community in mineralogy, earth sciences and training in the lapidary and jewelry arts – while promoting sound mineral resource stewardship based on environmental awareness and ethical behavior. The Society fulfills its mission year-round which may include field trips, lapidary workshops, outreach presentations, public mineral displays, an annual show and monthly informational meetings open to the public.



The Pasadena Lapidary Society is affiliated with the California and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Our editor is a member of the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors.

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>This month marks 152 years since the end of the U.S. Civil War. It also marks the beginning of a time of developing mutual respect among all Americans, regardless of ethnicity, race, creed or gender - a process that continues even today. The U. S. Postal Service has marked this memorable occasion with a special commemorative postage stamp, which is attached to this bulletin !</p>						<p>International Tattling Day 1</p> 
<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Martin Luther King Assassinated 1963</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Board Meeting</p> 	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Civil War Ends 1865</p> 
<p>9</p> <p>Works</p> 	<p>PASSOVER</p> <p>Passover begins at sundown</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Full Moon</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>First Space Shuttle Flight 1981</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Abraham Lincoln Assassinated 1865</p> 
<p>CELEBRATE EASTER</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Emancipation Apr 16, 1862</p> 	<p>Program Meeting</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>tax day!</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>Rivdan -Baha'i</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Girl Scout Leader Day</p> 
<p>23</p>		<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>New Moon</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>Mutiny On The Bounty 1789</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>Field Trip to Stoddard Wells</p> 
<p>30</p> <p>Viet Nam War Ends 1975</p> 	<p>April 24th, 1184 B.C., the Greeks enter Troy hidden inside a giant wooden horse.</p>					