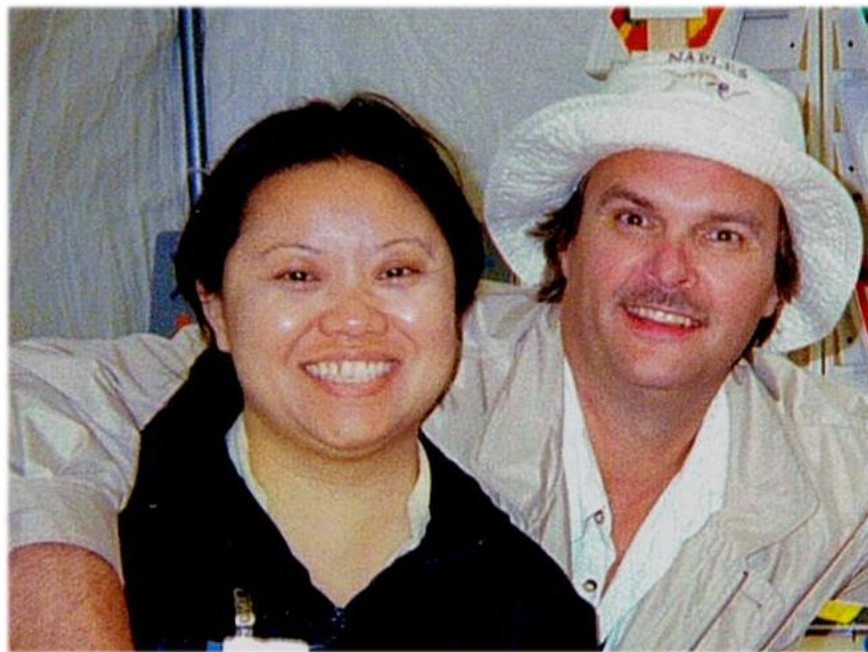


Wedding Celebration

July 16, 2017
Pasadena, MD

Eric Bare
Meshele Merchant



A little about Eric

Eric was born in Bridgeport, CT, on August 23, 1963, the second of three children by John Bare and Kate Jones. John worked for Univac since 1957, a pioneer in computer development. The family moved to Plymouth Meeting, PA, and then to Oxon Hill, MD. Sadly, the parents divorced in 1966. Eric and Kate did not find each other again until 1994.



Eric was in the military for a few years, including as a dog handler. His love of dogs, especially Golden Retrievers, endured, and he raised several of them. His first love, though, was music, and he studied sound engineering and worked for The Commodores for nearly 25 years as stage manager and later also as production manager. Here are some photos of Eric on the job:



The Commodores' bookings left Eric with some spare time, and he got involved with Kadon's art shows and Renaissance Festival. He is a natural showman and problem-solver, and he fit into the puzzle business like a hand in a glove. When he met up with Meshele, he brought her on board as well. For many years now the two have been a mainstay at the Maryland Renaissance Festival and the street art fairs in Florida for the winter months. Here are some snapshots from those venues:

Art show with tent in Jupiter, FL.



Setting up at Christmas Village, Baltimore.



Media interview at Christmas Village booth, December 2016.



At the Maryland Renaissance Festival with costumes and accents and the king, oh my.

And Eric's fair mistress, the lovely Meshele, delights visitors with her fascinating wardrobe and charms.



Below: Meshele in mysterious feather mask, with Dick, Kate and Thomas Atkinson as Ye Olde Gamery celebrated Kadon's 35th anniversary. Thomas also officiated at the Bare-Merchant marriage ceremony.





Meshele in fancy hat, with Kate and Dick as the Gamery hosted a Celebration of Mind in honor of Martin Gardner's birthday.

Before opening for the day, collating Celebration documents with Kate, Meshele and long-time friend and helper, Seth Bonder.



After hours, pondering a puzzle solution. Note the long hair...

Right: Entertaining young visitors with the Royal Game of the Goose with our dear former goose mistress, Rolinda Collinson.



Left: On a rainy day, entertaining the King and his companions inside Ye Olde Gamery's spacious pavilion, playing the Goose game.

Art and Poetry

Eric is also an inspired artist and deeply thoughtful poet. Here is his "Weather Machine", from a template you can color any way you wish. This piece hangs in the ballroom at Kadon headquarters.



Eric produced this poem and also set it to music, and expanded the concept a few years later in "The Padded Room" on the next page, writing as C.C. Wise (Counter-Crock-Wise).

Crooked Kings' Crock

by Eric Bare

Check all premises
Crawl low in the smoke
Don't follow the mirrors
That plot and provoke
Shed salty tears
Upon the violent flames' wall
Mind good reason
When the acid rains fall

Welcome to the Warlords' Auction
Where blood is bartered, oil for gold
Soldiers and holy rollers
Lay your weapons down
Don't believe a word of what's been told

Lie gently, wisely
In the shifty bogs
Slip keenly through the mire
Free the warming frogs
From crooked kings' crock
That seethes and boils
Leave the stewing dim herd
To their complacent toils

Welcome to the World War Auction
Calcutta was never so bold
Ladies and gentlemen
Lay your money down
To the highest bidder Earth is sold

This Padded Room

by C. C-Wise
2012.05.09

The role this world plays is type-cast
And the cast, prototypes.
I hide in the spin and pretend
To believe in half the hype

While I stand on my head in a puddle centered in this padded room
And caution the demons that don't go away.
Like allies who share bitter victories after each had tolls to pay,
I draw a line at the puddles scattered 'round this padded room.

Crooked Kings turn the world on end
With puppets on parade.
I hide in the spin and pretend
To be fooled by the masquerade.

Standing on a throne with broken legs in the middle of this padded room,
Crooked Kings laugh with demons at play.
While jesters wrestle over half a crown to win half a kingdom someday,
They all tumble in the puddles scattered 'round this padded room.

Half the bloody world has gone mad
And the other, half as gone.
I hide in the spin and pretend
To watch half a show go on

While I stand on my head in a puddle centered in this padded room
And reason with my demons all day.
Like lovers who share sinless failures and lessons learned the hard way,
We go dancing past the puddles scattered 'round this padded room...

This padded room.

Some of Meshele's creative artistry for Kadon:

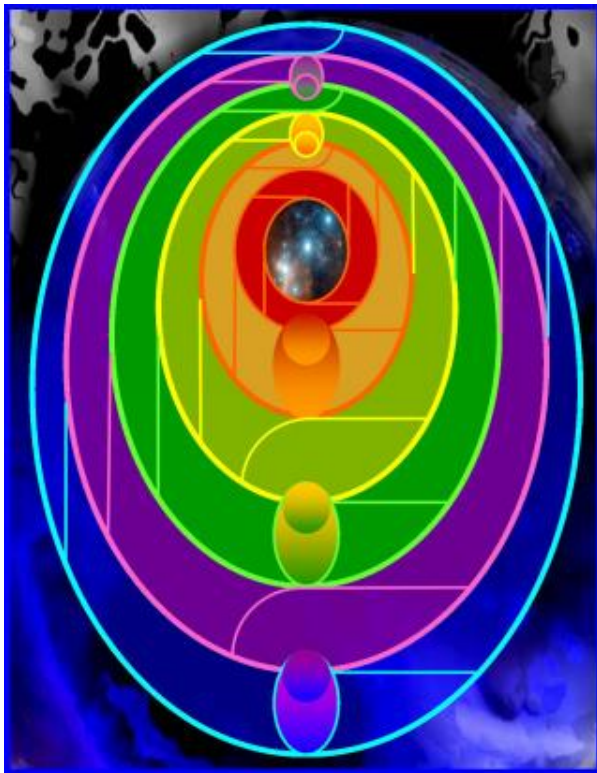
Cute and zany bookmarks, magnets, Halloween treats made from our vast supply of gray teddybears, a by-product of the Bear Hugs set. On the vampire bears (bottom image), can you find all 7 matched pairs?



Game designs by Eric

Inspired by all the novelty designs of our resident artist, Meshele, Eric created a large number of “ghoulish foolery” disks as Halloween spinners and twirlers. At right are a few he made in 2012 from more spare parts produced by Bear Hugs.

Inspired by Kadon’s many game and puzzle designs, Eric created a game he called “Quantanglement”, a take-off on quantum entanglement in the Universe. Below is the beautiful board design, and we hope someday to publish it:



**Eric and Meshele, we celebrate your talents and your spirit!
May your souls ever be united through love in the cosmic stream.**