



# Gamepuzzles.com Newsletter, Christmas 2013

Warm greetings to all our friends and customers and supporters!



We thank you for your appreciation of our labor of love in creating, developing and producing our unique collection of playable art – gamepuzzles for the joy of thinking and a celebration of mind. You continue to inspire us in our dedication to excellence. For a complete look, please visit our online gallery, [www.gamepuzzles.com](http://www.gamepuzzles.com)

As you plan your gift shopping, please look through our easy-to-use website for new and classic beauties, and our many award-winning designs... something for every age, interest and skill. Our gamepuzzles are treasured gifts, and the pleasure lasts.

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\_\_\_\_\_ *please scroll down*

For a quick overview, see our flippable online catalog where you can virtually turn all 24 pages: [www.flipcatalogues.com/flashplayer.aspx?id=459&file=](http://www.flipcatalogues.com/flashplayer.aspx?id=459&file=)

Or print out some or all of its pages from the online "print catalog" version, [www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm)

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## WEBSITE UPDATES

### ... Holiday shopping notes

The holiday season is upon us, with only a few weeks until Christmas. Every year we do our utmost to ship your orders to arrive in time for the holidays. Please refer to our special holiday messages:

- Gift shopping made easy, including the convenient PayPal option:  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/holiday.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/holiday.htm)
- About shipping to anywhere in the world, costs and deadlines:  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/shipxmas.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/shipxmas.htm)
- Gift-wrapping available; choose a style (snowflakes or penguins):  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/giftwrap.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/giftwrap.htm)
- Gift certificates available, in multiples of \$25:  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/giftcert.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/giftcert.htm)

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### ... Newest releases for 2012-2013

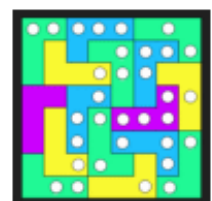
- **Chasing Squares™** – invented by Jerry Farrell, developed by Kate Jones, this attractive small puzzle has a unique gambit: form from 1 to 24 "traceable" squares with just 16 pieces. A virtuoso tiling challenge!

[www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling3.htm#CS](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling3.htm#CS)

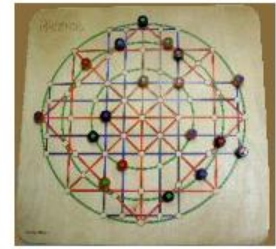


- **L-Sixteen™** – where the holes mean a lot. This little brother to our Fill-Agree uses L-tetrominoes with every combination of 0 to 4 holes. You wouldn't believe what they can do with patterns of holes. Easy to extremely hard challenges.

[www.gamepuzzles.com/polycube.htm#L16](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/polycube.htm#L16)

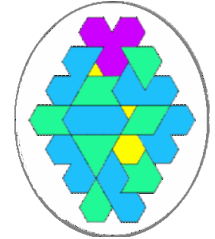


- **Brace™ deluxe wood gameboard** – After 15 years, our fascinating strategy game, Brace, originally produced as a jazzy tapestry, now has a wonderful new look as a large (24") wooden board, beautifully finished, laser-engraved and handpainted.



- **Fractured Fives™** – by Kate Jones, had its first public release while celebrating its 25th anniversary of creation! Our longest run-up -- [www.gamepuzzles.com/polycube.htm#F5](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/polycube.htm#F5)

- **StarHex-II™** – Created by college-bound student Jacob Lettie, this new polyform set of polystars was right up our alley. Its star grid is one of the 17 classic symmetry groups we love so much. Making only concave borders is a beautiful challenge, and separating the colors is a real doozie. New solutions win a prize! --



[www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling2.htm#SH23](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling2.htm#SH23)

- **A+D+D+D™** (say "add") is portable instant fun with numbers and strategy. The storage pouch is the gameboard. Add numbers on dice for sums that get your pawns on the board in rows of 3, 4 or 5. Invented by Devin Stewart; puzzles by Kate Jones.

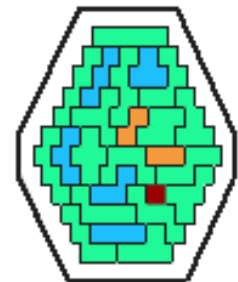


[www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct3.htm#Ad](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct3.htm#Ad)



- **Tangramion™** – designed by Serhiy Grabarchuk, extended by Kate Jones, this 7-tile square was inspired by the dissection patterns of Archimedes' Square and classical Tangrams. The square has only 10 solutions, and only 93 convex, 33 mirror and 36 rotationally symmetrical shapes have turned up so far – partly because none of the 7 tiles themselves is symmetrical. Prizes for new ones! [www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling3.htm#TGM](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/tiling3.htm#TGM)

- **Hopscotch™** – created by our own Thomas Atkinson and developed by Kate Jones, has it all: drama, beauty, variety, challenge, mathematical intrigue, and the itch to try it. And it's on the Games 100 list for 2014! We make it in a dazzling new marbled acrylic –



[www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly2.htm#HS](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly2.htm#HS)

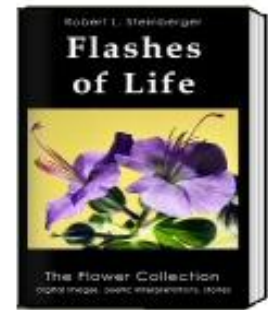


- **Octiamond Stack™** – We're offering a special and very limited edition of the 66 octiamonds, styled as 6 separate "petals" that stack, each in a little tray. Only while they last. And only for the hardest puzzle lovers and collectors –

[www.gamepuzzles.com/oct-stack.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/oct-stack.htm)

- *Flashes of Life – The Flower Collection* is a magnificent 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](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/flashes.htm)



Our other recent releases from the last years, along with other announcements, are listed on the "New Stuff" page: [www.gamepuzzles.com/newtopic.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/newtopic.htm)

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### .. New discoveries for old friends

- **Grand Bowties™** – We've added a special gallery page for this superbly versatile set ... match colors in intricate ways-edge to edge, corner to corner, tip to tip, and now on half-edges, too. Take a look. They form the loveliest of patterns with shimmering frosted highlights:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/b24gallery.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/b24gallery.htm)

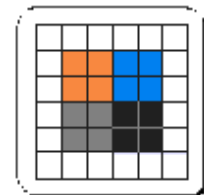


- **Triangoes™ Jr.** – See new letters and numbers evoked with colors, a delightful new theme suggested by Meshele Merchant. We're still expanding this collection:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/tjtiling.htm#TJalphabet](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/tjtiling.htm#TJalphabet)

- **MiniMatch™** – See 9 attractive new patterns with partial matching for this neat small puzzle with striking artistic effects: Match a doubled square in the center, and all singles along the border:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/mim-match.htm#9big](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/mim-match.htm#9big)



- **Rombix™ Jr.** – See a collection of cool new patterns created by a talented 8-year-old for this darling puzzle. There's no end to the pretty variations you can create with its versatile shapes.

[www.gamepuzzles.com/rbjfyp.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/rbjfyp.htm)

- **Ten-Yen™** – 3-layer problem solved! After ten years of being posted as a challenge open to the world, with a prize for the solver, our Ten-Yen 3-layer problem has been solved, by a math professor and a doctoral student in Latvia! Confirmed: our 17 identified shapes are indeed the complete set.

[www.gamepuzzles.com/3layers.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/3layers.htm)



- **Iamond Hex™** – at last has a book! This hardest of our small puzzles for years offered only two major challenges. Its new booklet includes hundreds of new figures and some games. If you own this delightfully vexatious puzzle, send us your email and we'll send you the digital file. Or send us your street address and we'll mail you a printed copy.



[www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly.htm#IH](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/esspoly.htm#IH)

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## ... 25th Anniversary editions

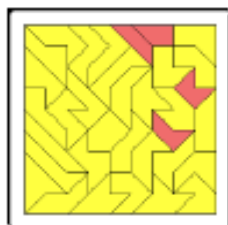
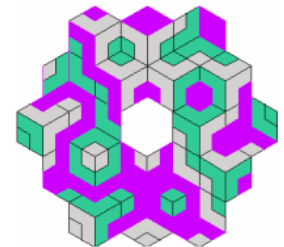
This year's 25-year retrospective covered 1988 and the products we introduced that year. Having introduced so many new products in 1987, we had to catch our breath a bit and add fewer designs in 1988. Each of these had greater complexity than where we had gone before and involved companion activities. See "1988: Compounding complexity" for historical notes:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/1988notes.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/1988notes.htm)

- **Warp-30™** – a four-way packing of spheres  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/prpuzzls.htm#WT](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/prpuzzls.htm#WT)



- **Hexmozaix™ II** – the larger companion, in the new silver and frosted colors –  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch2.htm#H18](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch2.htm#H18)



- **Tan Tricks™ I and II** – a surprisingly difficult polyform set  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/tk.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/tk.htm)

- **IcosaTriad™** – limited edition, just a few left  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/prpuzzl2.htm#IT](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/prpuzzl2.htm#IT)



- **Quintachex®** 20" wood chessboard – just one made for 2013  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#QXw](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#QXw)



## The GAPE Award: Solomon W. Golomb, Ph.D.



For 2013, Kadon is presenting the **Gamepuzzles Annual Pentomino Excellence** award [www.gamepuzzles.com/kadon.htm#bestow](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/kadon.htm#bestow) to the patriarch of polyominoes, Solomon W. Golomb, [www.gamepuzzles.com/polyintr.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/polyintr.htm)

on the 60th anniversary of his having introduced pentominoes at the Harvard Math Club. Some years later, in 1965, his landmark book, *Polyominoes*, was published by Charles Scribner's Sons. A revised 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. From Princeton Univ. Press came in 1994.

In real life, Solomon is a Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering and Mathematics, holding the Andrew and Erna Viterbi Chair in Communications at the University of Southern California. In his student days at Harvard, Sol studied, named, documented and popularized these unique geometric shapes, the polyominoes, and has for 60 years watched them go out into the world and capture the imagination of mathematicians, writers, puzzle collectors, puzzle makers and thinkers of all ages.

Enthusiasts like Martin Gardner, Arthur C. Clarke, Kate Jones, R. Wayne Schmittberger and countless others in the math and game field have written about pentominoes, and Kate Jones has built the entire Kadon enterprise upon their irresistible appeal.

Companies from Japan to Canada to Russia to France have jumped on the polyominoes bandwagon with commercial versions, along with Kadon's path-breaking Quintillions set. Who hasn't heard of Tetris, Blockout (a Kadon trademark), Blokus, Katamino? Even Discovery Toys sells a miniature plastic set. See more history in Wikipedia.

Any year now, the stubborn folks at Merriam-Webster may break down and add "pentomino" to their dictionary. Other dictionaries already have it.

Blue Balliett has written three charming, award-winning mysteries for children, prominently featuring pentominoes and bringing their lore into many classrooms, for which Ms. Balliett received our GAPE award for 2006.

None of this would have come about without the brilliance and innovation of their "inventor", Solomon Golomb. No one is more deserving of a special lifetime award for excellence with pentominoes than Solomon. Why, the very word "Polyominoes" is an anagram for "Yipe, Solomon!" We congratulate and salute him with fervent admiration and gratitude for his extraordinary contribution to human progress and civilization. See our award to Sol here: [www.gamepuzzles.com/gape13.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/gape13.htm)

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## ... Other awards we presented

Kadon occasionally sponsors awards to First-Place winners of certain puzzle-solving competitions, particularly those that use Kadon products. Here are some winners of contests in 2013:

- **The Third Annual Doris Championship** and Festival of Mind, 2013, organized by Doris inventor Zdravko Zivkovic, involved thousands of students in Serbia, Romania, Croatia and Hungary. The top winner was Lucia Scur from Croatia, and she received a special Doris set as one of her prizes. See pictures here: [www.gamepuzzles.com/doris2013champ.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/doris2013champ.htm)
- **Ten Yen™** – congruent shapes with all 3 colors. Found after 10 years! The maximum is now proven to be 17. Solved by Prof. Andrejs Cibulis and his doctoral student, Juris Cernenoks, at the University of Latvia. See the story and their award: [www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#Ten](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#Ten)
- **Vee-21™** – the 25-holes problem. Several people won a prize for new solutions this year, and the competition is still open: [www.gamepuzzles.com/25holes.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/25holes.htm)

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## ... Distinctions we received this year

- Gabriel Fernandes has a great blog for reviewing puzzles, and for his 300th blog he named his "Top 10" puzzles of the previous 100 reviewed, including our Cubits™: [www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch4.htm#CU](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch4.htm#CU). You can read Gabriel's full and well-illustrated review of Cubits™ at <http://mypuzzlecollection.blogspot.com/2012/06/cubits.html>

For his 400th blog and his "Top 10" favorites in that group, our Roundominoes® was runner-up. See Gabriel's beautiful review, <http://mypuzzlecollection.blogspot.com/2013/10/roundominoes-by-puzumi.html> highlighting our collaborator, German Calas, as a new source for buying our puzzles on his [www.puzumi.com](http://www.puzumi.com) website.

- We were thrilled that the December 2013 issue of Games Magazine selected Hopscotch for inclusion in their list of the 100 best games of the year 2014. See the review by John McCallion: [www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg5.htm#HS](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg5.htm#HS)

- This year was our 30th season at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, and the King himself visited our pavilion to extend congratulations, right after he and his royal entourage had a spirited bout at our Royal Game of the Goose. Scroll down to see several photos of the scene:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/renfest.htm#king](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/renfest.htm#king)

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## **.. 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. We've recently added some new items here:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/search.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/search.htm)

- Additions and upgrades — 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>

- 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](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#icons)

[www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#memory](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#memory)

[www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#amuse](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#amuse)

- A whole page of long-secret links leads to goodies and surprises:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/balloons.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/balloons.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 out

[www.gamepuzzles.com/buyfor25.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/buyfor25.htm)

- Our printable full-color catalog has been updated; read or print its 24 standard pages 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 gray, too. Includes a printable order form —

[www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm)



- And check occasionally for interesting new links added on our Resources pages, especially in "the game of ideas". Nothing to buy, just eye and mind candy:  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/resourc6.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/resourc6.htm)

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### ... Our interactive features of the season:

- Try your hand at our very tricky memory game of matching little teddy bears:  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/memory4/memory4.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/memory4/memory4.htm)
- Here's an even more confusing memory game with Christmas trees:  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/Christmas/christmas.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/Christmas/christmas.htm)

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

- **Arc Angles** – form one closed matched loop of all 25 tiles, with the minimum enclosed area.  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#AA](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#AA)
- **The 25-Hole Challenge** – fit thirteen Vee-21 tiles (V-trominoes) rigidly into their tray with no slipping or sliding...  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/25holes.htm](http://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](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/hopscotch.htm)
- **The Octo Clock** – arrange 8 numbers as a clock face to meet goals...  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/g8-clock.htm](http://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 a good candidate has recently appeared. We are curious and curiouser...  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/quiz.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/quiz.htm)

See all 10 of our contest questions in the Contests page,  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/contests.htm#Kadon](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/contests.htm#Kadon)

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## SPOTLIGHT — Eric-Wise

Eric-Wise is a relative late-comer to the gamepuzzles scene but has taken to it with unbounded enthusiasm. His moniker comes from "Counter-Crock-Wise", based on a concept album of poems he wrote, "The Crooked King's Crock" (political satire), and his general independent mindset.



Eric has been in the music business most of his life, and for nearly two decades has been the stage manager for The Commodores, a career that takes him to their concerts from China to Africa and anywhere in between. Sometimes he even gets to do... pyrotechnics!

He also happens to be the son of Kate Jones, reunited after a 25-year separation. His expertise in setting up shows and being an all-around roadie has come in handy in helping Kate to redesign her new booth and to assist at her exhibits in art shows when he is not on the road at Commodore gigs. His quick grasp of the puzzle concepts and skill at explaining them makes him a great asset with visitors to the booth.

Between music gigs, Eric gets more deeply involved in the gamepuzzles adventure, helping at shows and at the Maryland Renaissance Festival, in the laser shop, the wood shop, and with developing video clips about the various puzzles (a project under construction). In the fall of 2013 he singlehandedly reorganized the Kadon warehouse, ridding it of mildew, building new shelves, and redesigning the lighting system.

Eric has an amazing capacity for original thinking, philosophy, technical savvy and awesome street smarts gained from a stint in the military and from having lived in Mexico, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and being in the high-tension creative atmosphere of the music business. On the side he's a free-lance entertainment manager for nightclubs and festivals. He knows how to fix and solve anything. You'd want him along in any emergency.

For relaxation Eric plays his guitar and writes. Recently he has also been inspired to design gameboards. Stay tuned.

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## IN THE MEDIA

... **We're on Facebook!** "Like" us at [www.facebook.com/gamepuzzles](http://www.facebook.com/gamepuzzles) and see our latest news and stories. Post comments, questions and answers.

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... **Top Puzzlers** – A webpage on the Grabarchuk puzzle family's Pinterest site is dedicated to the most renowned puzzle designers of the world, past and present. Kate Jones is included: <http://pinterest.com/grabarchuk/top-puzzlers/>

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... **The Games 100**, a thrilling honor! Games Magazine's annual list of the 100 best games for 2014 includes our Hopscotch set in the Puzzles category – bringing to 52 our historical record of this honor since 1980.

[www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg5.htm#HS](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmg5.htm#HS)

*In memoriam* – we are sad to report that a dear friend and Games' excellent reviewer, Robin King, passed away on Thanksgiving Day 2013 after a long illness. She was only 58. A small tribute is here:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmem.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/gamesmem.htm)

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... **Videos on YouTube** – Our friend and fellow polyomino lover, Donald Kern, has created four delightful and impressive videos showing the "complete" set (35 one-sided pieces) of pentacubes forming amazing and difficult solutions by Don. You'll want to see these more than once. The lively musical backgrounds are original compositions by one of our favorite pianists, Sergei Novikov ( [www.speakingmusic.com](http://www.speakingmusic.com) ).

- Regular 5x5x7 Block  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=odnc60SBLnk&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odnc60SBLnk&feature=relmfu)
  - Two-Sided Staircase  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKPJLq358Ds&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKPJLq358Ds&feature=relmfu)
  - Jagged-Edge Block  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKqi4E-k-TY&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKqi4E-k-TY&feature=relmfu)
  - Chichen Itza Pyramid  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2\\_5aZyAQJ90&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_5aZyAQJ90&feature=relmfu)
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... **A Proteus® applet for mobile devices** – A Proteus fan, Paul Nord, put his genius to work creating an app for your mobile devices so you can play our Proteus meta-game against a fairly smart computer. Get it at the Apple store for under a dollar:  
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/michael-waitsmans-proteus/id525544204>

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

- Blogspot, <http://kates-takes.blogspot.com>
- Live Journal, [www.livejournal.com/users/puzzlelady/](http://www.livejournal.com/users/puzzlelady/)
- Facebook, [www.facebook.com/puzzlelady](http://www.facebook.com/puzzlelady)
- Twitter, <http://twitter.com/gamepuzzlelady>
- LinkedIn, [www.linkedin.com/in/puzzlelady](http://www.linkedin.com/in/puzzlelady)
- Flickr, [www.flickr.com/photos/puzzlelady/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/puzzlelady/)
- Meme Hunter, [www.memehunter.net](http://www.memehunter.net)

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## ... Our domains

- [www.gamepuzzles.com](http://www.gamepuzzles.com)
- [www.gamepuzzles.US](http://www.gamepuzzles.US)
- [www.memehunter.net](http://www.memehunter.net)
- [www.tactilegraphics.us](http://www.tactilegraphics.us)
- [www.playable-art.com](http://www.playable-art.com)
- [www.polyformpuzzles.com](http://www.polyformpuzzles.com)
- [www.hexdominoes.com](http://www.hexdominoes.com)
- [www.thelifeofgames.com](http://www.thelifeofgames.com)

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## GATHERINGS

### ... 21st annual International Democratic Education Conference

August 4-8, 2013 – Boulder, CO

This event was an eye-opening experience for us about alternate ways to educate children and help them "gain the tools to build a just, sustainable, and democratic world." Their mission is to push the boundaries of what we mean by learning, sharing, connecting and creating. Check them out:

<http://www.idec2013.org/IDECprogram.pdf>

For four days we had kids and grown-ups gathering at our display, experiencing a whole new way of thinking in turn.



### ... Celebration of Mind – October 20, 2013

World-wide, Martin Gardner's fans and admirers organize events to honor his memory (October 21, 1914-May 22, 2010) on his birthday, celebrating this great writer's life of bringing math, magic, puzzles and reason to the world. For the second year in a row, his birthday coincided with the closing weekend of the Maryland Renaissance Festival, so we dedicated October 20, 2013, as a Celebration of Mind to Martin, whose writings directly inspired Kadon's work in recreational mathematics. Our theme was "Polyform Puzzles – portals of world and mind." This birthday tribute was just one of dozens held around the globe. See details here:

<http://celebrationofmind.org/celebration-of-mind/>

and our write-up at

<http://celebrationofmind.org/listing/polyform-puzzles-portals-of-world-and-mind/>

See one photo of our pavilion decorated with the Celebration of Mind banner above and more here: [www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2013gardnercom.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2013gardnercom.htm)

We designed a special souvenir puzzle for visitors and customers. You're invited to print it out and work it, too: [www.gamepuzzles.com/6x6martin.pdf](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/6x6martin.pdf)

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## ON THE ROAD

### ... Midwest Tour, June-August 2013 – Part 1

Kate Jones and Meshele Merchant tackled four big shows in a row in June – Cleveland, OH; Hinsdale, IL; Evanston, IL; and Wayzata, MN – and camped out in-between at KOA's. Hinsdale was wonderful to us, in a beautiful park setting. A bird got trapped in our tent overnight, its mate frantic till its release in the morning. Evanston had us under a railroad trestle, with whistles and rattling drowning us out every few minutes (at least we were sheltered from the rain).

The worst weather caught up with us in Wayzata just as we finished setting up Friday evening. Huge winds arrived and mowed down most of the booths. Ours held, and even held others from blowing down the street. By Saturday morning the organizers deemed it too dangerous and wisely cancelled the show, as more blasts were coming and all the lights were out in town from power lines being downed and trees fallen across many roads. So we all packed up Saturday morning and left on roads not blocked by trees. Our motel had power, but all surrounding eateries were dark. This adventure inspired a little poem: [www.gamepuzzles.com/wayzata13.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/wayzata13.htm)

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### ... Midwest Tour – Part 2

Meshele returned to Florida after the Wayzata fiasco and Kate handled the next gig, Grand Haven, MI, solo. Then Dick flew out to help with Chicago and Wyandotte, MI, both major events. Lots of driving , then back to Maryland to restock, and immediately West again for four shows in Colorado – Aspen, Beaver Creek, Boulder and Frisco. Dick heroically did most of the driving so that Kate could work, her laptop's lifeline in the cigarette lighter outlet. Kate loves mountains, and these shows were eagerly anticipated. Unfortunately, Kate cracked a rib unloading from the van, and while the shows had to go on, all hiking plans had to be scrapped. We did take the cable car up to a nearby peak and gingerly toured a small cave. After two weeks Kate was able to breathe again, just in time to gear up for the nine weekends of the Maryland Renaissance Festival.

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### ... Maryland Renaissance Festival, August-October 2013

A beautiful season, with less rain than the year before, and warm right up into October, was noteworthy for being our 30th year participating in the Festival. The "King" even visited to offer us congratulations. He and his royal companions also stopped in several times to play the Royal Game of the Goose, our star attraction in front of our pavilion.

Here are pics: [www.gamepuzzles.com/renfest.htm#king](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/renfest.htm#king)

The last day of the season we dedicated as a "Celebration of Mind" in honor of the birthday of Martin Gardner (1914-2010). More story and pictures here:

[www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2013gardnercom.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2013gardnercom.htm)

Thanks and kudos to our great crew: Thomas Atkinson, Arthur Blumberg, Rolinda Collinson, Dick Jones, Eileen Shaivitz, Steve Zeve; and to our seasonal and standby helpers: Eric Bare, Seth Bonder, Meshele Merchant, and Anna Stephan.

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### ... Indoor Shows

Leaving the 16th century, we plowed into our last four shows of the year in Ohio, Virginia and North Carolina – all indoors! Warm, dry, with electricity for good lighting. We salute a great organizer, Clyde Gilmore of Gilmore Enterprises, on his 40th year of producing shows, continuing the wonderful work started by his father. The Gilmores do everything right and clearly care about this special breed of humans, the independent artists and craftspeople. May their success long endure. More about the Gilmores here: [www.craftshow.com](http://www.craftshow.com)

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This year was our most packed show schedule ever, with 39 shows booked. We're testing whether working smarter, harder and longer will let us at least keep breaking

even. After 35 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. Thanks, Meshele and Eric and Dick, who took turns hitting the road in any weather, and special thanks to Eric for twice dealing with flat tires so the show could go on.

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.

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### ... Show Schedule

From mid-January through April, Kate appears in art shows throughout Florida. The summer months she travels to the Midwest. Confirmed upcoming show dates for 2014 are posted on our calendar page. We add new shows as we're accepted and confirmed: [www.gamepuzzles.com/showlist.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/showlist.htm)

If you're in the area, do stop by and say hello. Our booth looks like this:

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## CONNECTING

You can reach us in all these ways:  
[www.gamepuzzles.com/contact.htm](http://www.gamepuzzles.com/contact.htm)

Phone: 410-437-2163  
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Pasadena, MD 21122



We accept American Express, Discover/Novus, Visa, Mastercard and PayPal. Simply make your PayPal payment payable to: [kadon@gamepuzzles.com](mailto: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](http://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.

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## 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, 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

