



Gamepuzzles.com Newsletter, year-end 2015

Warm greetings to all our friends and customers and supporters!

In this year, our 36th anniversary of creating, developing and producing our unique collection of playable art – gamepuzzles for the joy of thinking and a celebration of mind – we extend our deepest thanks to all of you who have helped us along the way. You continue to inspire us in our dedication to excellence. For a complete look, please visit our online gallery, www.gamepuzzles.com – See our many award-winning designs... something for every age, interest and skill. Our gamepuzzles are treasured gifts, and the pleasure lasts. See also our other entertainment features you can play or read about in our website.

In this issue:

• Website Updates	2
... Newest releases	2
... Noteworthy and special	3
... New discoveries for old friends	4
... 25th Anniversary editions	4
... A children's story: The Rainbow Cannon	4
... The (belated) GAPE2012 Award: Yin Yang Pentominoes	4
... Other awards we presented	5
... Distinctions we received this year	5
... Other website features you may have missed	5
... Our challenges open to the World	6
• In the Media	7
... Videos on YouTube	7
... See us on Facebook	7
... Applet for mobile devices	7
... Blogs and social media	8
... Our domains	8
• Gatherings	8
• On the Road	9
... Trip reports	10
... Show Schedule	10
• Connecting – ordering, reaching us, modes of payment	10
• Our Holiday message	11

please scroll down

For a quick overview, see our 24-page flippable online catalog where pages virtually turn: www.flipcatalogues.com/flashplayer.aspx?id=459&file=

Or read or print out the online "print catalog" version, from three .pdf files. Its condensed descriptions and small illustrations make for a compact portable reference. You'll need Adobe Reader to view it. Prints OK in gray, too. www.gamepuzzles.com/catalog/catalog.htm



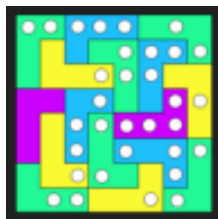
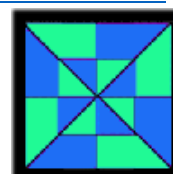
WEBSITE UPDATES

... Newest releases for 2015-2016 -----



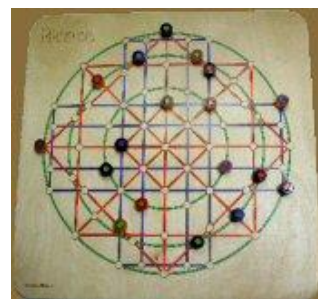
MiniMatch-I™ – 9 edge-colored squares, all different, make an incredible variety of patterns by matching colors. Form wrap-around solutions, symmetries, enclosed colors. The four colors are not equally assigned; you get 8 triangles of two colors, and 10 of the other two. www.gamepuzzles.com/edgmtch5.htm#Mim1

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

Brace™ deluxe wood gameboard – After 15 years, our fascinating strategy game, Brace, originally produced as a jazzy wallhanging tapestry, now has a large wooden board, laser-engraved and handpainted. Five games for two players plus solitaires. Invented by Alan Kross-Vinson, developed by Kate Jones, Brace was a *Games 100* selection in 1998. www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct5.htm#BNw



Trio-in-a-Tray™ – For their 25th anniversary, we put our three 4-piece Tiny Tans mini-puzzles into a single silver tray, with lots of new challenges plus all the classic symmetries. www.gamepuzzles.com/ty25-trio.htm

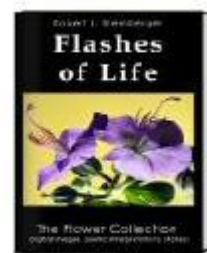
RunnuRound™ – Joe Marasco's ingenious gambit: What are the chances that in rows of randomly scrambled ten numbers, a run of three will turn up, in forward or backward order? Or even wrapping around the ends of rows? Find 'em fast, outguess other players. Unique bidding feature for bonus points. www.gamepuzzles.com/abstrct3.htm#Run



... Noteworthy and special -----

• *Flashes of Life – The Flower Collection* is a gorgeous book of photography by Bob Steinberger, with haikus by Kate Jones. A museum-quality coffee-table book to treasure forever. A perfect gift. While not a new release, its magnificence deserves repeated mention:

www.gamepuzzles.com/ashes.htm



• 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

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

• Chasing Squares™ – This darling set keeps surprising us with its immense variety of symmetry types and themes. New patterns emerge each time you play. We're still expanding this collection:

www.gamepuzzles.com/cs-designs.htm



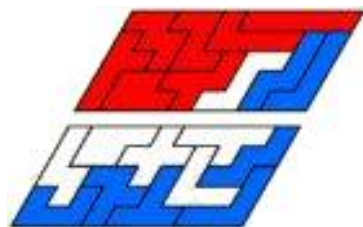
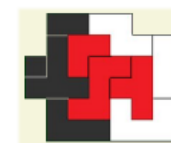
• MiniMatch-I™ – Marvelous wrap-arounds with colormatched edges and one or two enclosed colors and even full symmetry of all colors. Make torus and Klein-bottle matches.

www.gamepuzzles.com/mim1-match.htm



• Ten-Yen™ – Enclose any one color by the other two, with the longest and shortest perimeters. New solutions win prizes.

www.gamepuzzles.com/ten-enc.htm



• Rhombiminoes™ – New solutions found for color groupings, verified by George Sicherman and his faithful computer.

www.gamepuzzles.com/ro-conn.htm

• Rombix® Jr. – Cool new patterns created by young visitors to our booth, and by our own booth hostess, Meshele.

www.gamepuzzles.com/rbjfyp.htm



• Trio-in-a-Tray™ – Who would have thought that our venerable mini-puzzles, the Tiny Tans, would emerge for their 25th anniversary as a Trio with such amazing variety and beauty. It surprises us with every new pattern.

www.gamepuzzles.com/ty25-trio.htm



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

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

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

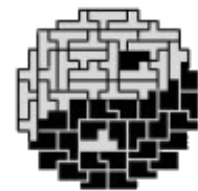
... A children's story: *The Rainbow Cannon* -----

This charming and touching tale by Robert Vermillion Jr. has been added to our small collection of original children's literature offered on our website as a bonus for visitors. A delightful trip into fantasy about seven rabbits who create rain clouds, and seven other rabbits who make rainbows. Grown-ups may enjoy the subtle message of social ethics and conflict resolution. www.gamepuzzles.com/stories/rainbow1.htm

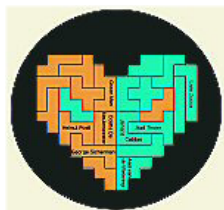


... The 2012 GAPE Award: "Yin-Yang Pentominoes" -----

Each year Kadon presents a prize, the Gamepuzzles Annual Pentomino Excellence award, for the best new pentomino idea of the year. However, the award for 2012 was three years in the making and was produced and presented in 2015. The winner was an international team of 8 puzzlists and their Yin-Yang Pentominoes project. Here is a quintessential solution of their idea, solved by Jenard Cabilao.



Congratulations to the collaborators: Jenard Cabilao, Green Man, Odette De Meulemeester, Helmut Postl, George Sicherman, Aad Thoen, Aad van de Wetering and Livio Zucca. The interactive award plaque was designed by Kate Jones, solved by Elijah Allen, and custom-made by Thomas Atkinson with the Kadon laser. The pieces in it are movable and playable and include the 12 pentominoes plus 8 hexominoes representing the winners' initials. More of the story and descriptions here:



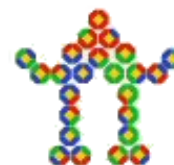
www.gamepuzzles.com/gape12.htm

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

Kadon occasionally sponsors awards to First-Place winners of certain puzzle-solving competitions, particularly those that use Kadon products, and for other extraordinary merit in the world of puzzles and games. Here are some winners from 2015:

- The Fifth Annual **Doris Championship and Festival of Mind**, 2015, organized by *Doris* inventor Zdravko Zivkovic, involved thousands of students in 10 countries. The top winner was Aleksandar Buljevic, Serbia, for his "Chinese Gate". See the whole story:

www.gamepuzzles.com/doris2015champ.htm



- In 2015, **ThinkFun, Inc.** (www.thinkfun.com), on their 30th Anniversary, were again the most deserving and admirable game company on the planet, and we presented them with a special Gamepuzzles Originality, Perseverance and Leadership Salute award and certificate:

www.gamepuzzles.com/gopals2015.htm



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

- In June 2015, the Australian journal, *Game & Puzzle Design*, published an article by Kate Jones on "Symmetrical Pentomino Pairs", treating this very fun topic with utmost scholarly formality. We thank Editor-in-Chief Cameron Browne for making all the drawings look wonderful.

www.gamepuzzles.com/sympent-gpd1.pdf

- A month-long mathematical art gallery exhibition was held at Towson University in July 2015, followed by the **Bridges Conference** (<http://bridgesmathart.org/home>) art exhibit at the University of Baltimore, July 29-August 1, 2015. Kate's **Grand Snowflake** was among the pieces on display (www.gamepuzzles.com/tactile2.htm#S7) and, on Bridges' mathematical poetry day, Kate read her *Singularity to Infinity* verses, previously read at G4GX and Atlas Summit.

www.gamepuzzles.com/atlas2012.htm

... Other website features you may have missed -----

- Our **Search index** is a useful page for finding games by type or by special category, cross-referenced from our regular sections. Some unique items are listed only here, not found elsewhere in our website. www.gamepuzzles.com/search.htm

- **Archives** – you can still track back to see what's been happening with us for the last 36 years by browsing through our archives, especially the annual newsletters that sum up our year's doings. Here's the Archives index. www.gamepuzzles.com/archives.htm

- **Blooper Bounty** – Each year we add new features and surprises, new products and new activities to the website. Here's a standing offer – a bounty to the first person to find and tell us of any bloopers we made! A separate gift for each mistake found. Email:

<mailto:kadon@gamepuzzles.com?subject=BlooperBounty>

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

www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#icons

www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#memory

www.gamepuzzles.com/website.htm#amuse

- **What You Can Buy for \$25 Dollars** – this playful "Chinese menu" page of 12 special items has some surprising goodies for the price-conscious. Check it out:

www.gamepuzzles.com/buyfor25.htm

- Our **Shakespearean catalog** – The [Maryland Renaissance Festival](#) celebrated its 39th season of 9 weekends, from August 29-October 25, 2015. We've updated the special [Shakespearean version](#) of our catalog to 40 pages of iambic pentameter verses describing our products.

www.gamepuzzles.com/rfcats-2015.pdf

... **Our challenges open to the World** (*you may win a prize*) -----

- **Arc Angles™** – form one closed matched loop of all 25 tiles, with minimum enclosed area.

www.gamepuzzles.com/pentuniv.htm#AA

- **The 25-Hole Challenge** – fit thirteen Vee-21 tiles (V-trominoes) rigidly into their tray...

www.gamepuzzles.com/25holes.htm

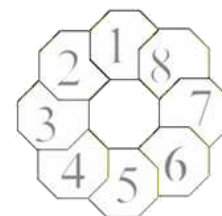
- **The 7 Congruent Shapes problem** – divide the 24 Hopscotch pieces to form 7 identical areas of 12 unit squares. A new shape wins you a prize:

www.gamepuzzles.com/hopscotch.htm

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

www.gamepuzzles.com/g8-clock.htm

- The **Mini-Quiz** series – we've published 8 so far, all still open. No one has fully solved Quiz No. 6, though one player came close. We are curious and curiouser... www.gamepuzzles.com/quiz.htm



- **Rhombiominos™** – find a new solution to connect all pieces of the same color...

www.gamepuzzles.com/polycub3.htm#RO

- **L-Sixteen™** – build a double maze of connected holes and continuous flagstones. New solutions win a prize... www.gamepuzzles.com/L16-holes.htm

- **Ten-Yen™** – minimum and maximum perimeters of one color enclosed by the other two. This challenge is still open for new solutions. www.gamepuzzles.com/ten-enc.htm

- **Triangule-8 Sprouts** – form 25 sprouts or prove that 24 is the maximum possible.

www.gamepuzzles.com/t8-20.htm

See also our formal Contests page, www.gamepuzzles.com/contests.htm#Kadon

IN THE MEDIA

... Videos on YouTube -----

Our friend Donald Kern has created 4 slick videos showing the 35 one-sided pentacubes forming amazing solutions by Don. Music is original compositions by one of our favorite pianists, Sergei Novikov (www.speakingmusic.com).

- Regular 5x5x7 Block
www.youtube.com/watch?v=odnc60SBLnk&feature=relmfu
- Two-Sided Staircase
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKPJLq358Ds&feature=relmfu
- Jagged-Edge Block
www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKqi4E-k-TY&feature=relmfu
- Chichen Itza Pyramid
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_5aZyAQJ90&feature=relmfu



Kate Jones' talk at Celebration of Mind, October 21, 2010, Washington DC .

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZZwc-Bj67Y>

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

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

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

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>

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

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

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

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



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



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

... Our domains -----

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



GATHERINGS

... Atlas Summit

Dick and Kate drove to Manchester, NH, in July 2015 for this unusual event and to show and sell our thinking games to energetic thinkers. This is the annual conference of The Atlas Society (www.atlassociety.org/) founded by David Kelley, a group of philosophers, libertarians, intellectuals, artists, writers and one puzzle maker. Attendees, both children and adults, had four glorious days of participating in workshops and presentations, and then exploring our gamepuzzles for a whole new way of thinking. The year before, one presentation by Shawn Klein dealt with the value of play. That video is now online. At the 51:00 mark, during the Question and Answer segment, Kate Jones gave a small comment and question and plug for the display of gamepuzzles she had set up in the lobby:



<http://atlassociety.org/objectivism/atlas-summit/videos/5592-the-value-of-play>

... Celebration of Mind

For the last weekend of the Maryland Renaissance Festival season, October 24-25, 2015, our pavilion, **Ye Olde Gamery**, hosted one of hundreds of official Celebration of Mind events held worldwide (<http://celebrationofmind.org>) honoring the birthday of Martin Gardner. Here's the story: www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2015gardnercom.htm

Visitors received a souvenir copy of the 40-page Renaissance catalog (www.gamepuzzles.com/rfcat-2015.pdf) with an insert page about Martin (www.gamepuzzles.com/gcom2015.pdf), and customers also received a special gift, a Buzzbears spinner inscribed with *Celebration of Mind 2015*: www.gamepuzzles.com/spinners.htm



... 35th International Puzzle Party (IPP35)

In August 2015, Dick and Kate drove to Ottawa, Canada, for this puzzle collectors' grand fest.



The prestigious annual International Puzzle Party is held in different countries each year and is attended by hundreds of international puzzlers. In honor of the Canadian locale Kate designed a thematic puzzle, the **Maple Leaf Rag**, dissecting the Canadian flag emblem into 35 pieces. See the whole story... and maybe try to solve it yourself. www.gamepuzzles.com/ipp35.htm

ON THE ROAD

... From the East Coast to the Midwest, and up into Canada

This year our summer shows were all over the map, with Kate Jones and Meshele Merchant handling most of the earlier events. The hardest was Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Arts Festival in June, with a grueling 13-hour load-out because of continuous rain. That begat this poem: "The Fourth River" by Kate, plus a musical version, "The Fourth River Stormy Talking Blues" by Martin Samuel: www.gamepuzzles.com/traf2015.htm

Then Dick and Kate were off to Minnesota, Chicago, Michigan, Akron and the philosophy conference in Nashua, NH (see page 8), Bridges in Baltimore (page 5), and IPP35 (above). *Right:* Kate's daughter, Sue, helps out at the Wayzata, MN, art show for the first time. She's a natural.



... Maryland Renaissance Festival, August-October 2015

Our 32nd season brought a couple of new helpers on board. The "King" and his royal companions stopped in on a rainy day to play the Royal Game of the Goose. Here are pics:

www.gamepuzzles.com/renfest.htm#king

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

www.gamepuzzles.com/rf2015gardnercom.htm

See more pictures on page 12.

Thanks and kudos to our great crew: Thomas Atkinson, Arthur Blumberg, Dick Jones, Meshele Merchant, Eileen Shaivitz, Steve Zeve; and to our seasonal and standby helpers: Eric Bare, Elijah Allen and Seth Bonder. We thank Ken Isbell for filling in part of the season as the rousing Goose Master, a role he had pioneered a decade earlier. And a warm welcome to our new challenge game master, Hans Weidig. On the last day of the festival, Hans and his lady, Katrina, had a glorious Renaissance-style wedding on the grounds (see page 12). They had designed a unique, original and very meaningful souvenir for the guests: Wedding dice. Kate handpainted all 200 of them as a wedding gift. Hans had designed them with the dots in the right order, embedded in special symbols, including the couple's initials and interlinked rings and the date.



... Indoor Shows

Leaving the 16th century, we plowed into our last four shows of the year in Richmond and Fairfax, VA; Greensboro, NC Myrtle Beach, SC (in Victorian costume—see below); and Baltimore — all indoors! Well, the Baltimore Christmas Village was actually in a heated tent, our second year of being in this month-long daily show, from Thanksgiving through Dec. 26. Here's a photo of our display, which also entertained around forty students a day for their class projects. Thanks to the stalwart crew of Meshele Merchant, Eric Bare, Elijah Allen, Eileen Shaivitz and Rebecca Rodrigues for their stints in the booth.



... Show Schedule

From mid-January through April, gamepuzzles appear in art shows throughout Florida. The summer months we travels to the Midwest, and in the Fall the Maryland Renaissance Festival runs nine weekends. Confirmed upcoming show dates for 2016 are posted on our calendar page. We add new shows as we're accepted and confirmed. If you're in the area, please do stop by and say hello. www.gamepuzzles.com/showlist.htm

CONNECTING

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... Ordering

We accept American Express, Discover/Novus, Visa, Mastercard and PayPal. Simply make your PayPal payment payable to: kadon@gamepuzzles.com We also honor checks, money orders, bank transfers, and occasionally cash. Order online, by mail, school purchase orders, phone, and in person at shows. See all ordering details here: www.gamepuzzles.com/purchase.htm

Please let us know when your email address changes, and keep us on your Safe Senders list. We'll never spam you nor give out your private information. You'll just receive our very rarely issued memos and newsletters on matters of interest to you. Of course, if you don't ever want to hear from us, please ask to be removed.

OUR HOLIDAY MESSAGE

We still can't improve on how we have said it before, so we send these words of wishes for the holidays once again...

"Thanks for your continuing support, and best wishes to all of you from all of us at Kadon! By any name that you celebrate these days, and wherever on the planet you may be, let there be a spirit of love and kinship, and the light of understanding.

"In times of turmoil, let us hold fast to truth and honor, to our love of life and liberty, that someday there will be "Peace on Earth" among all of us who share this planet, so small and fragile and beautiful, and unique in all the vastness of Time and Space.

"Intelligent life, infinite possibilities, infinitely precious... keep that flame alive."

You can see this message with a nice picture of our Christmas tree on our website. The tree was hand-built from plywood, assembles like a puzzle, and features live candles during our traditional Christmas Eve ceremony. Each candle embraces a wish and illuminates a hope. At the very top is a crimson rose, symbolizing love.

<http://www.gamepuzzles.com/xmascard.htm>

-- Kate Jones





Photo by Art Blumberg – Eric Bare hosts the King at Goose game.



Photo by Meshele Merchant – Hans and Katrina wed.



Photo by Art Blumberg – Ken Isbell hosts visitors in lively Goose game.



*Photo by Art Blumberg
Panorama of Ye Olde Gamery's interior.*