



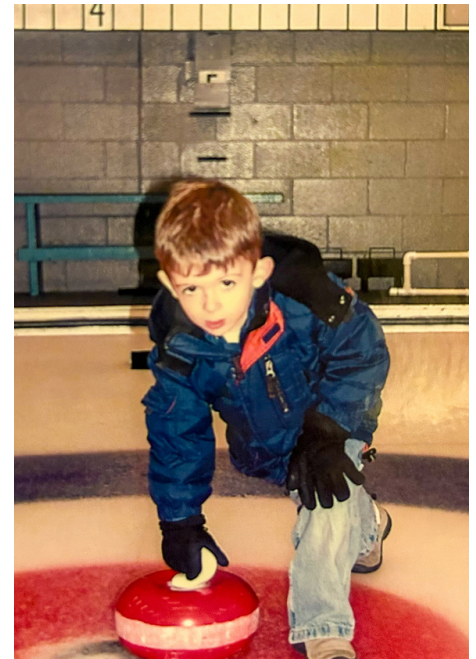
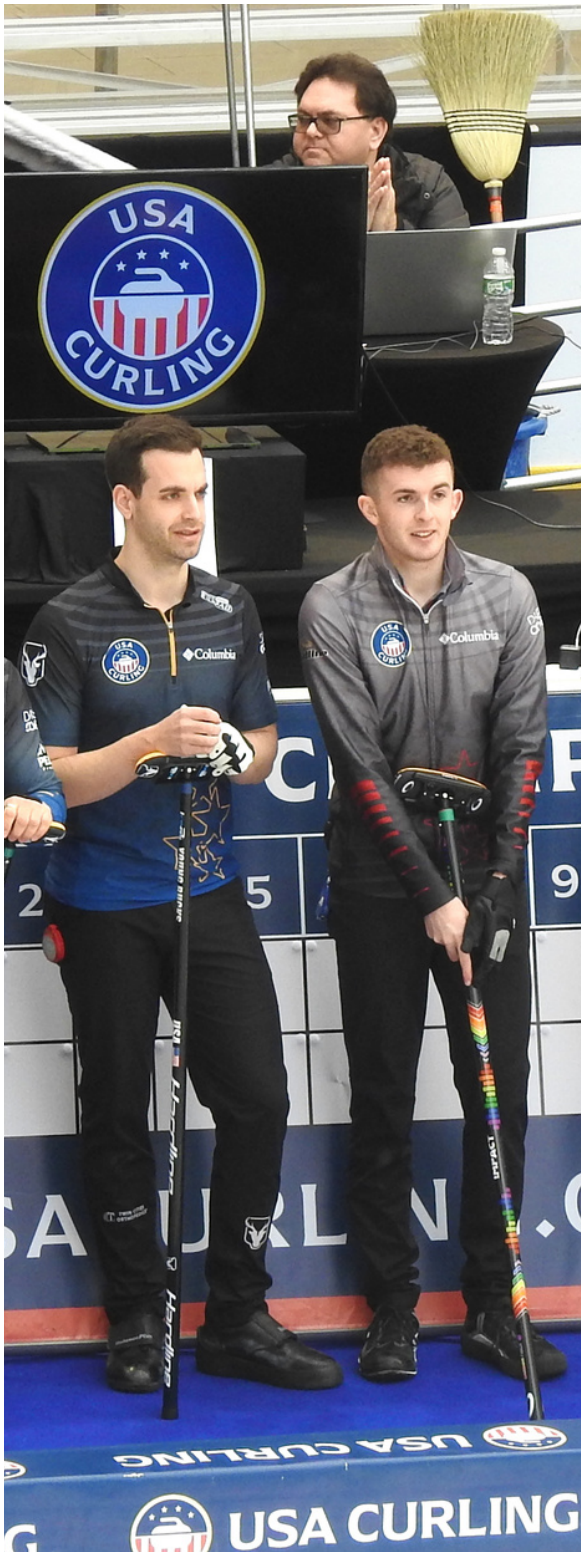
# DUCK SOUP

Official Newsletter of the Ardsley Curling Club  
[www.ardsleycurling.com](http://www.ardsleycurling.com)



## Ardasley club-raised curlers medal at Nationals

Congratulations to both Andrew Stopera of Team Dropkin and Danny Casper of Team Casper for winning the Silver and Bronze medals at the 2024 USA Curling Nationals held at the American Dream.



Thank you to all the Ardsley members who showed up in force to cheer on our boys. Many of us remember them throwing the first stones to launch their curling careers at ACC.

And, also big thanks to the many volunteers from Ardsley who helped out on the ice crew, timing games, selling merchandise, and working as curling gurus during the week of competition.

More on page 6.

# IN MEMORIAM



## STEVE SMITH



Tracey Kayser Messing, Steve Smith,  
Barbara Gutekunst, and Gert Messing

Steve Smith, a legend in the Spirit of Curling around the world, passed away peacefully in December at the home of his late mother in Mahopac, NY . An early technology professional in the era of computers and programming – well before the internet and phone devices, he turned his attention to curling in the late 1970s following in the footsteps of his curling parents and his brother, Bob.

Steve started his curling career as a Junior out of St. Andrew's CC, one of the charter members of the GNCC along with the New York Caledonian CC. When St. Andrew's lost its ice in the mid 1980s, he transferred his curling loyalty to Ardsley CC yet remained a lifelong NY Caledonian, serving as the Club's Secretary and GNCC Rep. for many years. He devoted two decades of service to Ardsley CC, both internally and externally.

Steve was Chairman of our Ice Committee for many years and spent endless hours preparing the ice for our numerous events, including many nights on his all time favorite warm room sofa. His singular curling achievement was winning the 1987 McKay Douglas International Bonspiel, as skip, amidst the usual strong competition from within the GNCC and from Canada . He won the Wells, as skip, in 1996 and 1997. He, almost always, participated in our internal events – Headless Horseman, etc. for twenty years.

Continued on page 3.



1998 Monctonian: Jerry McCarty, Don Garside, Presenter, Chris Banino, Jim Gutekunst, and Steve Smith

## IN MEMORIAM

## STEVE SMITH

According to George Austin, President of the New York Caledonian CC, Steve was a well known fixture on the GNCC bonspiel circuit in the 1980s and 1990s. Steve is on the top 10 list of the Plainfield CC “Stone” (established in 1978) appearances - first curling in the Stone in 1983 and last in 2006. He was a regular participant in the Calder Cup at Norfolk CC, in the Mitchell at Utica CC, in the Achilles at Schenectady CC, among other bonspiels. He was a loyal participant in both the Gordon International (USA vs Quebec) and the Ross Tarlton (USA vs Ontario).

According to Kim Freeman, past President of the GNCC, Steve was a USA charter member of the Margarita CC, formed in the early 1990s, a small but enthusiastic group of international curlers, who combined their love of curling with their zest for life. The Margarita CC “Annual Meeting” was on the ice somewhere in the world, including in Prague, Calgary, Glasgow, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, etc., even including NYC at Ardsley CC twenty years ago . Steve was always there, often hosting dinners, with friendship and humility.



# Duck of the Month

**Patagonian Crested Duck**  
*(Lophonetta specularioides)*

This duck found in southern waters of Argentina, Chile, and the Falklands typically has a clutch of up to 8 eggs. A perfect number to hatch a brood of curlers.

## Thrifty Gang

ACC are your third event champs at the 2024 Robbie Burns Thrifty. The team: Greg McCarron (lead), Mike Horowitz (2nd), Frank Buquicchio (vice), and Colin Kasprovicz (skip) went 3-1 on the weekend and brought home some hardware.



## Golden Seniors



Bill Stopera and Team Farbelow recently won Gold at the USA Senior National Championship at Heather Curling Club in Mapleton MN. In addition to Bill, the team was comprised of Mike Farbelow, Rich Ruohonen, and Tim Solin.

The team finished the round robin with a 7-0 record. In the semifinals, they beat Team Pustovar 9-3 and in the final, they beat Team Leclair 7-4. They head to Senior Worlds in Sweden, April 20-27.



## Over/Under

-- Matt Rogala

The 2024 edition of the Ardsley Over/Under In-House Bonspiel was a great success! We had 32 members participating in the event, which saw teams formed by a mix of experienced (5+ years) and newer curlers compete in a point spiel with two six-end games for each team. This year's event proved to be a very close contest early on, with three of the four first draw games ending in a tie! This close race came down to the wire in our final point standings as well, with the difference between second and third place being only 1/4 of a point, the minimum difference possible. In the end, our top three teams were as follows:

**1st Place (19.5 points):** Derek Kayser, Eric Symbouras, Steven Moskowitz, Emil Micha

**2nd Place (15 points):** Sharon Gallegos, Andrew Hyman, Yoram Miller, Katharine Ashworth

**3rd Place (14.75 points):** Dave Ruckdeschel, Kevin Gallant, Curt Pader, Adam Benalt

Congratulations to our top three teams, and thank you very much to everyone who participated in this year's Over/Under for making it a fun day of curling for all!

# More from USA Curling Nationals



The real Jon Schuster



Ice Crew



Team Shuster wins gold



# All Curlers Are Special

-- *Diane Borgia*



We all know curlers are a special breed. Who else chases a 42 pound stone down ice while listening to someone scream HURRY HARD at them? In Ardsley we have another set of special curlers. These are the teens and young adults from Northeast Special Recreation and the Yonkers PEARLS Hawthorne school who join us on select Fridays for the Special Recreation Curling program. If you walk into the warm room after 4:30, you will find anywhere from 6-15 young curlers limbering up and changing into their “curling shoes”.

On Sheets A and C, the mixed set of stick and hack curlers from Northeast run through a practice session. Stay out of the way – all of these curlers can get their stones into the house – followed by the entire Ice House screaming “curler... IS IN THE HOUSE”. Yes – the encouragement is very loud and enthusiastic. Takeouts are even more exciting. Smiles are huge, even when the curler is normally non-verbal. These special curlers know success and relish praise. After practice the Northeast curlers will play a 2-end game. ACC volunteers help with sweeping and skipping. Cheers are universal. Even the Northeast Special Recreation counselors will throw a few stones.

Now that we have the PEARLS curlers, the Ice House is a little more crowded. The newest students are on Sheet B using the medium rocks. Under the supervision of Shai Stephenson, a Special Education teacher, ACC volunteers work on more basic skills – delivering the stone and sweeping, with the youngsters aged 11-14. Focus is on safety, staying on your feet (no twirling), keeping the stone on Sheet B and getting some distance. Since the youngest curlers can't make it into the house yet, games are improvised. All the youngsters are very polite and thankful for the opportunity to curl. (con'd on page 8)



# All Curlers Are Special (con'd from page 7)

Special Recreation Curling has a long history in ACC. Beginning with a small group from Yorktown Special Olympics in 2002. Pete Westrell along with volunteers Patti Burns, Allison Bankes, Pippa Broadhurst, and Norm Laird started the program. Pete McCuen and Kay Sugahara were also part of the initial volunteers. Then Jim Borgia started helping Pete and Pippa, eventually taking it over. Various ACC volunteers have helped out as needed. The PEARLS students caught the curling bug after 24 students curled on a class trip in December 2023 and loved it! Of course – what's not to love. A few of the students wanted to come back, and so we invited them to join the Friday program. This program is one of the reasons the ACC receives a 501c3 designation from the IRS. If you are coming to practice on a Friday evening in early March, stop by early to catch these special curlers in action.

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