



DUCK SOUP

Official Newsletter of the Ardsley Curling Club
www.ardsleycurling.com



Big Apple 2026

The 2026 Big Apple Bonspiel has come to an end! We hope you had a lot of fun, both on and off the ice.

Special thanks to Ryan Heide and his committee for running the spiel, the ice crew, and the many club volunteers who came out during the weekend. Also a very cool honorable mention to Karen Casper for helping present the pins.



(More Big Apple on page 9)

Results

- A Event Winners:** Ardsley (Sather)
- A Runners-up:** Duluth (Litman)

- B Event Winners:** Broomstones (Jennett)
- B Runners-up:** St. Andrews (Kayser)

- C Event Winners:** Denver (Kizlyk)
- C Runners-up:** Colonial (Dungan)

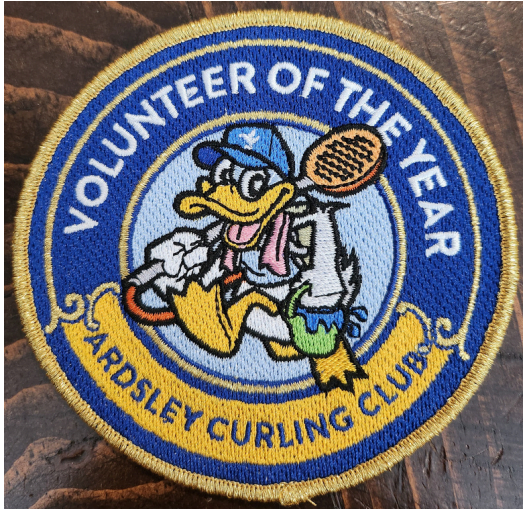
- D Event Winners:** Nutmeg (Tulley)
- D Runners-up:** Bucks (Brady)

- E Event (Trivia):** Broomstones (Jennett)



Martin, Jeff, Jim, and Dave

Volunteer of the Year Nominations



It's once again time for Volunteer of the Year nominations. The most important annual award given out by the curling club! You can only win this award once, and winners names are engraved on the Jesse Wang memorial plaque hanging prominently in the warm room.

Past winners include: Geoff Broadhurst (pictured above), Alison Bankes, David Schrull, Bob Kennedy, Julie Everett, Curt Pader, Matt Scheiner, Joe Sablow, Jim Borgia, Tim Klein, Derek Kayser, Travis Spokes and Victoria Vron, Jeff Greenberg, James Bilodeau

Members are asked to nominate the person or persons they feel deserve this honor. The final decision will be made by the "Ice House Committee" under the leadership of Bill Borowitz and awarded at the closing dinner.

Please nominate your choice with a short explanation by e-mailing Jim Duke at: jimoduke@aol.com



Save the Date

Pull the Plug -- April 17-19

Ardsley Annual Meeting -- Sunday, April 19
(after pull-the-plug)

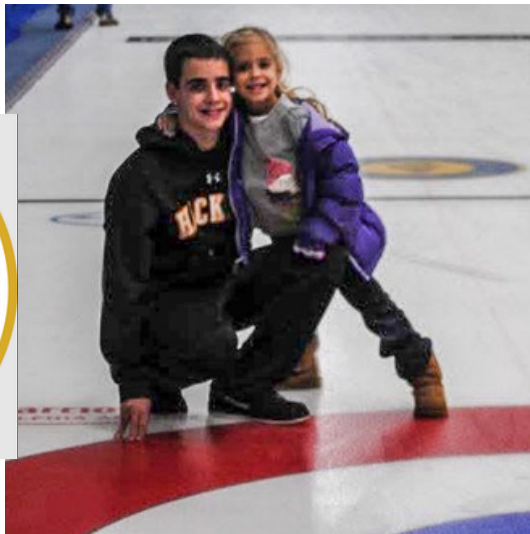
Closing Dinner -- TBD in May

US Nationals

The 2026 USA Curling Men's and Women's National Championships were held from Feb 23 - Mar 1 in North Carolina. Andrew Stopera skipped one of the 8 men's teams to a nail-biter final in the gold medal match against John Shuster who took the win in an extra end. Sister, Megan Stopera was among the elite women skips, finishing with a 3-4 record.



Andrew and Megan Stopera



USWCA All-American



The women's All-American took place Mar 10 & 17 this year. The winner is team Dolores with Melissa, Caitlin, Dillon, Emily, and Monica. Runner up: Team Alice, with Marianne, Nora, Gudrun, and Karen.

Francis Dykes Men's 5U

Ardsley cohosted the 2026 Francis Dykes Memorial Bonspiel with Nutmeg Curling Club this year. (Feb 26 - Mar 1) We had 4 Ardsley teams competing strongly during the event with Walter Michalski's team taking home the Davies Bowl now resting on top of the trophy case.



Francis Dykes Medal: Potomac (Dei)
Donald McKay Medal: Albany (Tygert)

Sinnett Cup: Bucks County (Green)
Broomstones: Broomstones (Bashford)

Brookline Trophy: Rochester (Schmitz)
Johnson Medal: Triangle (Parham)

Davies Bowl: **Ardsley** (Michalski)
Sofoulis Medal: Plainfield (Megna)

ARDSLEY					NUTMEG							
PURPLE		W	L	LSD		Pool Rank	MAROON		W	L	LSD	
Total	Best	Total	Best	Total	Best		Total	Best				
Albany - Tygert	2	0	77.50	0.00			Broomstones - D. Wright	2	0	282.00	63	
Bucks County - Hamill	1	1	262.00	46.00			Nittany Valley - Lutz	0	2	247.00	48	
North End - Hearn	1	1	176.50	10.50			Nutmeg - Ratajczak	1	1	223.00	17	
Rail City - Scheib	0	2	108.25	5.25			Triangle - Parham	1	1	247.13	48	
PINK		W	L	LSD		Pool Rank	ORANGE		W	L	LSD	
Total	Best	Total	Best	Total	Best		Total	Best				
Ardsley - Miller	2	0	123.50	0.00			Albany - Burkhart	2	0	174.38	11	
Belfast - P. Wright	1	1	131.25	3.25			Broomstones - Bashford	2	0	98.38	2	
Cape Cod - Morrissey	0	2	169.50	4.50			Nutmeg - Reuter	0	2	119.88	21	
Rochester - Visalli	1	1	196.25	19.00			Schenectady - Hughes	0	2	99.63	0	
GREEN		W	L	LSD		Pool Rank	YELLOW		W	L	LSD	
Total	Best	Total	Best	Total	Best		Total	Best				
Jersey Pinelands - Franke	1	1	152.75	6.50			Bucks County - Frantz	0	2	135.13	11	
Long Island - Brown	0	2	192.75	5.75			Cape Cod - White	0	2	274.00	55	
Potomac - Dei	1	1	31.25	1.00			Bucks County - R. Green	2	0	74.13	0	
Rochester - Higgins	2	0	147.50	15.50			Potomac - Nist	2	0	175.88	16	
BROWN		W	L	LSD		Pool Rank	GREEN		W	L	LSD	
Total	Best	Total	Best	Total	Best		Total	Best				
Bucks County - Dampf	2	0	109.00	6.50			Albany - Cadwell	0	2	225.04	21	
Norfolk - Hayes	2	0	230.00	15.00			Ardsley - Michalski	1	1	239.31	29	
Plainfield - Megna	0	2	221.50	28.00			Schenectady - M. Green	2	0	106.49	19	
Rochester - Schmitz	0	2	79.50	0.50			Triangle - Moran	1	1	148.00	0	
CREAM		W	L	LSD		Pool Rank	LIGHT BLUE		W	L	LSD	
Total	Best	Total	Best	Total	Best		Total	Best				
Ardsley - Hodgdon	2	0	64.00	4.00			Pittsburgh - Koehler	2	0	201.82	27	
Nutmeg - Meany	1	1	218.25	10.75			Rochester - Bauman	1	1	236.23	47	
Plymouth Rocks - R. Cooper	0	2	258.25	52.25			Rocket City - R. Martin	0	2	178.85	8	
Potomac - Moore	1	1	242.25	42.25			Utica - Opels	1	1	259.95	57	
RED		W	L	LSD		Pool Rank	DARK BLUE		W	L	LSD	
Total	Best	Total	Best	Total	Best		Total	Best				
Belfast - Schulz	1	1	249.00	30.00			Ardsley - M. Anderson	1	1	115.90	12	
Nutmeg - A. Cooper	1	1	239.50	44.00			Petersham - Leger	2	0	216.25	16	
Potomac - Brown	2	0	139.25	13.50			Plainfield - Gallo	0	2	242.11	26	
Schenectady - Gandhi	0	2	77.50	13.75			Schenectady - Brader	1	1	164.13	5	



Duck of the Month

Common Scoter
(Melanitta nigra)

Common in coastal areas of Ireland, this fishy-tasting duck was once approved by the Catholic church for eating on Fridays.

The Cobb



Two Ardsley teams attended the Cobb Bonspiel held at Utica Curling Club February 19-22. Jack and Amy Glanzer, Tim Klein, and Nora Mongardi went as Team Long Island. Cindy and George Brown teamed up with two Utica curlers, Dale and Carol Jones as Team Ardsley.

George and Cindy Brown are new to Ardsley Curling this year, but curled for 40 years in Utica. They won the C event and LI won the F event, but all we want to see here are the costumes!



Breaking Plaid

Congrats to Breaking Plaid: Erin Durba, Julie Everett, Gudrun Sablow, and Judith Kelson on their A final appearance at this year's Dutch Shoe in Albany, Mar 6-9. I don't know what the other team names were, but this one is a winner!



Thank You

- Jeff & Karen Casper



It was definitely not a sure thing that Team Casper managed to get to the Olympics. What was definitely a sure thing was how our Ardsley members turned out in force to not only support the team but also bring serious energy and commitment to recruitment. To see our membership double down on who we are and what we bring to our community is everything. It's a bit embarrassing to see all the coverage for one guy when we should be celebrating all of us. We may not have created Ardsley Curling Club, but we do all the things that make it special today. Thank you all for being committed to Ardsley Curling, being our friends, and being there always throughout the years. Special thanks to the Board who must be exhausted. This was a big year. Thanks – Jeff & Karen



Teachers and Curlers: Like Duck and Water!

part 3 - look for part 4 in the next issue of Duck Soup - **Vinay Goenka**

One thing that has always intrigued me is the attraction of the sport for teachers. We have multiple teachers in our membership, and I covered a bunch of them in the past:

Dec 2015 <https://ardsleycurling.club/ducksoup/DS-December-2015.pdf>

Jan 2016 <https://ardsleycurling.club/ducksoup/DS-January-2016.pdf>

With that big a gap, I thought it was high time to refresh the article with missing profiles. Our curling teachers were asked:

- Please give us a 2-3 line brief on your teaching background
- What made you take up curling?
- What skills or characteristics do you bring from your classroom when you curl?
- Your advice to a 5 and under curler?

Larry Blatt

I have been teaching about 20 years at Edward R, Murrow High School in Brooklyn, where I graduated from in 1979. I started teaching when I was in my 40s, looking for a change into a career that I liked. I am a Physical Education teacher, dean of students, and soccer coach (Both Girls and Boys teams).

I started curling after the Covid pandemic. I was looking for something to do during the winter months, and a friend of mine who I played softball with suggested I try curling. I fell in love with the sport, both as a workout, and with the friendliness and welcoming feeling of the other players.

I think I bring an understanding that no one is perfect; you will make mistakes and just move on from them to the next shot or play.

My advice for 5 and under curlers is to enjoy the game, the people, and play as often as you can, both in your local club leagues and in as many bonspiels as possible.



Teachers and Curlers: Like Duck and Water!

part 3 - continued

Alison Merkel



I've been a middle school Humanities teacher for 21 years at a public school in New York City, working with 7th and 8th graders in a class that combines American history and English. I love helping students discover new perspectives through literature while also making sense of the world they're inheriting through history. Outside the classroom, I co-founded and have directed a school musical theater program for the past 16 years, bringing together students of all experience levels to produce full-scale shows. That work, like teaching, is rooted in collaboration, shared purpose, and a strong sense of community.

Like many, I was first drawn to curling after seeing it in the Olympics — it looked a little wacky, but also serious and incredibly strategic. I love that it takes thinking, teamwork, and patience, and that progress comes from showing up, working hard, and putting in the time. I enjoy how it's competitive yet polite; one of my favorite parts is the tradition of sitting down with the team you lost to — or the team you beat — to toast the game you just played.

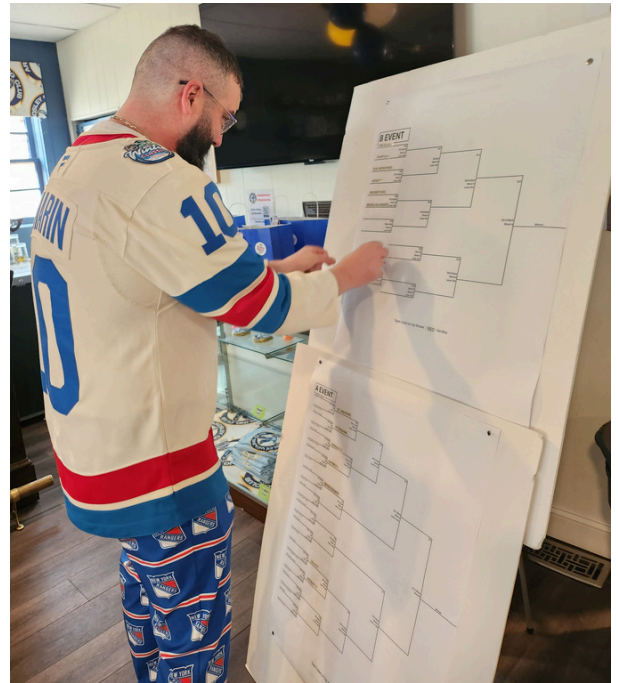
Patience, communication, and the ability to stay calm and problem-solve in the moment are skills I bring from the classroom to curl. Teaching has trained me to observe closely, adjust quickly, and support teammates — all of which translate really well onto the ice.

My advice to 5 and under curlers:

Give yourself permission to be a beginner. Focus on learning the basics and be patient with the process. Ask questions, watch experienced players, and celebrate the small improvements along the way. It takes time to develop the control and consistency the game demands, so don't get discouraged early on. Stick with it — over time, your aim, weight, and confidence will come. And enter as many 5U events as you can. It's a great place to experience the fun of bonspiels and build community with players who are in a similar place on their curling journey.

to be continued next issue with Miles Luo and Amy Glanzer

More Big Apple



New Stone Handles

During our summer refresh we will change out some of the stone handles with names not affiliated anymore.

Time to add your mark to our club.

Reach out to: Steve Hess

<hess@legalimages.com> or fill out the [linked form](#).



If the last stone is the hammer, is the one it hits the thumb? --- Mikey Young

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