



# Venerables CoffeeBreak



New Year Edition – January 2014

## Wasn't That A Party!!!

On Wed Dec 11 the Board of the Venerables organized a party to be remembered. Here are some of the positive comments about the evening from participants:

"We've been to many curling parties and this one was the best one yet – well worth the money. We enjoyed Elaine and the committee work impressed." **Bernie & Isobel Guyett**

"What a great evening!!!" **Rene & Gary Mandel**

"Very good party – we had a great time!" **Ellen & John Harzenetter**

"The committee did a fantastic job with this party" **Carson Klinck**

This Christmas Party had a combination of humour, laughter, and



the flow of a marvelous experience. The capacity crowd loved entertainer Elaine Charal and her wit and handwriting analysis and didn't want the evening to end – many stayed to socialize after.



Final word from our guest, Elaine Charal: "You folks surely know how to have a perfect party! You were meticulous in your preparation. DJ Lester was terrific – everyone there was a pleasure. This was my favourite party of the season."

Thanks to **Committee members Ed Welch, Gary Mandel, Peter Tibando, Al Gibson, Ed Burnett, Gord Wells, David & Donna Abrams, John & Ellen Harzenetter, John & Julie Messina, David Hansen and Gary Pennington.**

**Don't miss next year!! Put it on your calendar now – Dec 10, 2014. It will be even better!**

## An African Learning Opportunity by Gary Mandel

Last October my wife and I joined two friends on a safari to Kenya and Tanzania. The safari experience was truly amazing, everything we could have hoped for and more. Our trip ended in Arusha, Tanzania, where we had already arranged to visit the Mwangaza Partnership. We knew very little about them, and they knew nothing about these retired educators from Ontario. We had no idea how we would be affected by our visit to Mwangaza. We found it was truly a life changing experience.

The Partnership oversees more than 70 secondary schools across Tanzania and engages participants in leadership development by providing support for teachers working with ESL learners. At the primary level all instruction is given in the national language, Kiswahili. However, when you start secondary school, Grade 8 or Form 1, instruction is suddenly only in English, often the students' third language. This has created a massive problem for a small poor country where decades of economic constraint have resulted in an impoverished school system.

The government recognizes that English proficiency is essential for its citizens. At the end of secondary school all students write national exams. Since 1997 the results have declined severely. To address this problem Mwangaza initiated a Literacy Intervention Programme (LIP). The success of the LIP depends upon 3 things: local support, teacher training in Sheltered Instruction, which we used to call "Language across the Curriculum", and the provision of adequate texts and materials. *Learn more at web-site (<http://www.mwangazapartnership.org>).*

The challenges facing educators in Tanzania were *(continued on page 3.)*



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## Know your Venerables Board – Part 2

In the last issue of CoffeeBreak we provided a brief profile of five members of the Board of Directors in order to introduce them to the membership. What follows is a profile of the remaining 5 members.

### **Peter Tibando, Past President**

Other than curling I play Old-timers Hockey, Baseball and Golf. I like cooking, gardening and traveling. After 40 years on the railway in various positions I retired from Canadian Pacific Railway on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 as a conductor on freight trains. I started to curl for the first time on Oct 2003 at Avonlea till it closed down and then came to Tam Heather Venerables and became involved on the board for approximately seven years and I have made a lot of good friends and although this is my last year on the board I will still be involved in helping with any function at the club.

### **Jim Thomas, Treasurer**

In addition to curling, Jim plays tennis twice a week. He has played tennis every Tuesday and Thursday morning (in the same season as curling) with Norm Ferguson for at least the last 20 years. Jim says: "In the summer I play at golf with limited success, but it keeps me active". Jim also belongs to a sailing club at his cottage in Muskoka and with his wife races their Albacore every Saturday in the summer. Finally, Jim is a bridge player and tries to play about once a week.

In his former working life Jim was a partner with a major Accounting Firm. Jim likes the fact that in our curling group most people have left behind the trappings of their former jobs or positions. "We are all just out to enjoy each other's company and the sport of curling, and to do it in a tag draw where the competition is all friendly, is perfect". As a VCC participant Jim also enjoys its more competitive aspect.

### **Ed Koen, Secretary**

Ed worked with Bell Canada in information systems before moving into a career in teaching and administration in the computer studies department of Seneca College. He was one of some seventy "Masters" who joined the Tam Heather Venerables after the closing of Avonlea several years ago. He is always impressed with the many Venerables activities that require a lot of behind the scenes organization to make it all happen.

He enjoys his summers at the family homestead on a lake near Kingston. Ed contributes a bit of curling trivia: In the 1980s, he curled in a league with Vic Rauter, when Vic was learning the game prior to introducing the sport on TSN.

### **Andrew Lamb, Communications Chair**

Prior to coming to Canada in 1973, Andrew spent three years in Morocco and Belgium helping the transatlantic start-up of Holiday Inns of America. *(continued on page 4)*

## Xmas Fun Spiel

After a late change in the bonspiel's format 30 teams came out for the 2013 Xmas Fun Spiel. Various reasons were put forward for the smaller than usual sign-up. The format was changed because some members were reluctant to play with a stick. Some members were concerned about the obligation to find their own replacement if they were unable to play a game for any reason. There was also a date conflict with an outside competitive event in which a number of our teams participate. Your Board is looking into how to best address all these issues in future.

Despite the lower turn-out the thirty teams had a thoroughly enjoyable week. On Friday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> teams turned up to play in the consolation event that started at 8 am and the main event that started at 10:30.

In the main event the winners were Team Boyle: Al Boyle (skip), Tom Kerr (vice), Don Tyrrell (second), Bill McGrath (lead). John



Crofts' team took second prize. Alf MacInnis' team was third, Bob Griffith's team was fourth and Ralph Warren's team took 5th.

In the Consolation Event, the Bob Jones team took 1st place. The Vic Cuff team was second. Jim Weatherup's team came in third and Tony Haslam's team took fourth position.

Before the awarding of the prizes all teams enjoyed a hot turkey sandwich served by Chef Damiano and his staff. Thanks go to the Bonspiel Team of Pierre Lemieux, Don Tyrrell, Jack Grant, Peter Tibando and Dal Wrigley for organizing a good tournament!





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## An African Learning Opportunity *(continued from page 1)*

highlighted by our visit to a progressive secondary school, Ngateu. The school has community support, teachers who have been trained in LIP, and a committed Head Teacher. Since adopting LIP Ngateu's scores on the national tests have improved from 139/322 to 29/322. At Ngateu we became acutely aware of the serious shortage of texts and supplies. Five to six students were using one book to complete assignments. Science materials, geography resources (maps, globes, atlases), and writing materials are desperately needed.

Although not part of the Mwangaza Partnership, we visited the Likamba Primary School in a poor rural area outside Arusha. Likamba has 510 pupils, 11 teachers, a proactive Head Teacher, and community support through a locally elected school board. The same desperate need exists here for texts and supplies.



As a result of our experience we are committed to adopting both the Ngateu and Likamba schools and to raising funds to purchase the texts and materials they need. If you would like to join us helping us in helping these schools provide the quality education that will enable their students to achieve their potential and succeed in the future. **All the financial support you offer will go directly to the schools adopted.**



We went to Africa to go on safari. We came home determined to help these two schools and their teachers provide what we often take for granted!

**For further information, and to make a donation contact Gary Mandel (email: TanzaniaRead4Success@bell.net) in "Y" group.**

## Damiano thanks you

"Movember" was a great success although I had to endure a month of horrendous facial hair. Thanks to you, the Venerables, we raised a grand total of \$1325.00 for prostate cancer. A big \$545 more than last year. Through your great generosity, awareness was raised around the often ignored issues of men's health. Again, may I say "thank you" to all of you for donating."

## Two great Euchre evenings

**Submitted by Reg Haney**

New decks of cards and lots of fun marked another great euchre evening on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Ladies division Pat Harron and Cathy Ford both had a score of 62, so first and second place was decided when Pat's card was picked for first making Cathy the second spot winner. There was also a tie for most honest lady between Kathy Warren and Mary McKay, and by pick, Mary took the envelope.

The Gents had two fellows tied for top honours when John Warren and John Walker both posted 55. Again, by means of card selection, John Warren became the winner and John Walker was the second. The most honest gent category saw Bob Jackson as the recipient.

Barb Welch, Norm Sudoma, Tom Heffron, and Jack Montgomery all had 3 lone hands. After the draw Tom Heffron got the prize. A very surprised Al Lee won the 50/50 draw netting him \$50 towards Christmas cheer.

We have a little problem. For this game we had 72 people on the list and 59 came. Here's the impact that it has: Ron Murphy has to order from the kitchen based on sign-ups and expended an additional \$45 to cover those that didn't come. Furthermore, the space they took up on the sign-up sheet prevented others who may have wanted to play from entering. If you sign up, please show up. If you know you can't come, remove your name or please call to cancel.

January 8 was really cold but we had a good turn-out to warm up the evening in the Tam lower lounge for the first euchre of 2014. Mary McKay topped the ladies division with a score of 60 and in her acceptance speech to the group she thanked her partners and her mother and father (a bit of humour, quite unexpected). Anita Waddell placed second: -- her card posted a 58, *(continued on page 4)*



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## Two great Euchre evenings *(continued from page 3)*

and as we must always acknowledge our most honest lady, Jayne Damiani took the "honours".

The gents top guy was new Venerables member and new euchre participant, Tony Damiani, with a score of 58. The second spot was a tie between John Walker and Art Gough, each with 56. Usually we would draw to decide the recipient of the prize in cases of a tie but because we initially erred by accidentally overlooking Art's score card, we awarded each a prize envelope. Bob Abernethy found a way to secure the most honest gent title.

John Walker had 5 lone hands to go along with his first place win, so that got him his second envelope.

Our 50/50 draws are always the high point of the evening for someone and on this night Barb Welch drew Marg Daw's ticket making her a \$56 winner.

There were 56 players in attendance with three no-shows. We thank those who were unable to attend but who had crossed their names off or had called in advance to advise us. This helps keep our finances under control.

There are three euchres left before the end of the season: -- February 6, March 6, and April 3.

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## Know your Venerables Board – Part 2

*(continued from page 2)*

In addition to curling and golf, Andrew's post retirement interests include sculpting in stone and clay, travel, cooking and reading.

After 20 years in financial and IT management positions he became a consultant with DMR, a Canadian consulting group. He retired as head of strategic consulting for an international consulting group. This is Andrew's second time on the Venerables Board. He enjoys all aspects of the club and appreciates all the efforts of the many volunteers who give generously of their time in so many capacities.

### Gary Sampson, Director at Large

Gary enjoys going to the cottage. He also enjoys sailing and kayaking and is an avid reader, especially of historical novels. Gary worked at the IBM Canada Laboratory for 32 years, where he held various technical and management positions developing software. Gary says "I enjoy the social aspects of the club. The people at the club are very friendly and I like that the club has both the tag league and the VCC league. Curling is also great exercise." During his time on the Board he wants to work on projects that make the club even better.

Gary has two dogs a Golden Retriever and a Labrador Retriever. He has deep family roots in Scarborough. His ancestors have lived here since 1860.

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## Tam welcomes a new manager

The Tam Heather Curling and Tennis Club Board have announced the appointment of a new manager for Tam. Doug Miller has curled with the main club for 31 years and served on the men's curling committee and on Tam's Board. He worked for Exxonmobil for 33 years. Doug takes up his position part-time in January and full-time in March. Please give Doug a warm welcome.

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**A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt, and is named "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain, who name him "Juan".**

**Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds: "They're twins! When you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."**

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## Anything to contribute?

*Please contribute items of interest or results of bonspiels, etc. to Andrew Lamb either by email to [alamb@rogers.com](mailto:alamb@rogers.com) or by envelope to the CoffeeBreak folder by the office.*

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### Upcoming Events:

January 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Presidents Spiel  
January 31<sup>st</sup> - VCC Play-Offs 1<sup>st</sup> Round  
February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Jim Young/Ross Ellis Spiel  
February 5<sup>th</sup> - Fourth Euchre Night  
February 7<sup>th</sup> - VCC Finals and Banquet  
February 11<sup>th</sup> - Valentines Bonspiel  
February 19<sup>th</sup> - Scarboro visit Tam  
February 26<sup>th</sup> - Eric Downer Memorial  
March 4<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Spiel sign-up  
March 5<sup>th</sup> - Fifth Euchre Night  
March 21<sup>st</sup> - J.F. Mackey Bonspiel  
March 26<sup>th</sup> - Stu Wheeler Classic

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