



Sad News



Glena Margaret Burling, 90, beloved Mother, was called to her eternal resting place on May 13, 2019. She entered this world on March 13, 1929 in Toronto, Canada, born to James and Alice Burling.

As a Canadian born triplet Glena, Gloria and Gladys at the age of 16 became a popular element of the **Ice Capades in 1945**. They alternately toured the world for 45 years with the **Ice Capades and Ice Cycles** accompanied by their mother.



Their most highlight was performing before the King and Queen of England and skated at Empress Hall. By the late fifties, the sisters arrived in Las Vegas, and performed in skating shows at the El Cortez, The Thunderbird and The New Frontier. They even appeared with the George Arnold Ice Revue on The Milton Berle Show on December 24, 1958. By the late nineties, they became modern day Golden Girls. Google Burling Triplets to read their incredible story.

She is survived by her Beautiful Daughter Laura Doucette-Riffel; granddaughter Ohara Riffel; Sister Gloria Burling. She lived a wonderful full life with Laura and Ohara for many of her remaining years. More commonly known as "Nana" by Ohara, that shared a very special bond as she was a devoted grandmother. Glena was known as a kind and loving soul that will be forever cherished by so many. We can't begin to name all of those she touched in such a motherly way, Nana will truly be missed.

New Reunion Information



[Click on the PDF file on the cover page for updated 2020 Reunion or for access to registration website, click here](#)
[\(if locked: password - ICREunion2020\)](#)

Our Alumni in the News

Professional Skaters Association Announces

Figure Skating Coaches Hall of Fame Class of 2019

The Professional Skaters Association proudly welcomes choreographer/director, **Sarah Kawahara**, to the PSA Figure Skating Coaches Hall of Fame Class of 2019. The ceremony will take place at the PSA EDI Awards Dinner on Thursday May 23, at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells in Indian Wells, CA.



The Figure Skating Coaches Hall of Fame is the highest award of recognition by the PSA and recognizes a lifetime of accomplishment in coaching. Through the success of their athletes and/or their profound contribution to the coaching profession these coaches have made a significant impact. The candidate must have produced the majority of their work in the United States. They must be a member of the Professional Skaters Association now or in the past and may be living or dead.

Sarah Kawahara, originally from Montreal, was an accomplished figure skater and began her education as a coach and choreographer. She has lived in California for many years with her husband and three children. Sarah has had an enormous impact on many generations of skaters, inside and outside the arena.

Sarah has choreographed for numerous competitive skaters, including such notables as Scott Hamilton, Kurt Browning, Ilia Kulik, Michelle Kwan, Kristi Yamaguchi, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill, Robin Cousins, Charlie Tickner, John Curry, Christopher Bowman, Surya Bonaly, Chen Lu, Nancy Kerrigan, Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov, Oksana Baiul, Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko, Victor Petrenko, Pang Qing and Tong Jian, Tiffany Chin, and Miami University Synchronized Skating Team.

She served as a coach and choreographer for the films *Blades of Glory*, *Go Figure* and *I, Tonya*. Her television specials were just as memorable; *Peggy Fleming: An Evening on Ice*, Disney's *Nancy Kerrigan: Special Dreams on Ice*, *Reflections on Ice: Michelle Kwan Skates to the Music of Mulan*, *Michelle Kwan Skates to Disney's Greatest Hits (2000)*, *Michelle Kwan Princesses on Ice*, *Scott Hamilton and Friends* and *Scott Hamilton Upside Down*. She is also a director/choreographer for numerous Royal Caribbean ice shows for Willy Bietak Productions, and created many shows for *Champions on Ice*, *Disney On Ice*, and *Holiday on Ice*. Most recently Sarah completed a 10 episode skating series for NETFLIX, entitled *Spinning Out*.

In 1997, she became the first skater to win the Best Choreography Emmy Award for her work in *Scott Hamilton Upside Down*. She garnered her second Emmy Award in 2002 for choreographing/directing *The Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics*.

Sarah was inducted into the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2017, followed by her induction into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame as well as the Skate Canada Hall of Fame in 2018. Her creative workshop, *Palette of Choreography*, is in demand at skating clubs nationwide. She is represented by Scott Henderson at WME.

Please join us in Palm Springs to honor Sarah and celebrate her many profound contributions to the sport.
<https://skatepsa.com/conference#awardsdinner>

Memories from our Alumni

Our memories are as clear now as they were when we were on tour. Here are a few comments courtesy of our FB page.

The carefree days of our former years...no social media, no crowded cities. We sure had it by the horn in the 1980's. My steamer trunk sits in my home to the delight of visitors and guests. It's pretty unique, our experiences, touring USA, Canada and Mexico. The friendships of those great years and antics like horseback riding at South Mountain, months in Manhattan MSG and Nassau County Coliseum, Maple Leaf Gardens, the fabulous Forum Montreal, Le Chateau Frontenac Boston Garden at Christmas's skating in the Boston Common...Parker House... not to mention Neal Blaisdell Center in Honolulu with those Mercedes 450SL's the girls seemed to have at their disposal - great times for all. Meeting Percelly's for the first time in Atlantic City along with Tai and Randy and with the jitneys before heading to Six Flags..."I wouldn't change a thing if I had to live my life all over" Thanks for the memories folks!! One could not even purchase the crazy experiences we had.- **Steve J. Lee**

Among the most AMAZING time of my life, OUR lives.

... I try to explain our experience to others today - at a time when Capades is a fond memory for some... And an unknown relic for young kids

... but everyone agrees, we had the most amazing unique combination of work and family - likely never to be ever replicated.

... surely not in these times.

... LOL, can you imagine today's PC Police being at one of our many parties, Halloween foremost among them.

It was a superbly unique, never to be equalled experience in our lives.

Love you ALL – **Tim Estoliz**

Those were the golden days. What memories!! Thank you Comi for taking us down memory lane. Like Packy said those were the best of times.... truly..- **Robin M. Howard-Banks**

Beautifully said my dear FRIEND!! We were so very Blessed to have shared those Incredible Years and Memories! – **Lorna Wighton Aldridge**

It was a wonderful, fantastic adventure. So many one liners, so many laughs, so many friends, so many firsts for all of us. First true friend, first family, first bar, first being out on your own. You are all the true meaning of family. Would not change it for the world and miss you all.

[Lori Johnson](#) We will never experience this life again. It was truly our dreams that came true.

Not to mention all the most amazing people we were blessed to work with. Yes [Sue Packard Rodeghier](#).. the Best of Times. – **Julie Culver**

Well said! We were blessed to be apart of one the most exciting, times of our lives! We experienced new adventures in new places, and every emotion possible with the most amazing lifelong friends! Our Ice Capades Family! Thank you all. – **Zane Shropshire**

We were so blessed to be part of this wonderful family. Thank you all! – **Lois McMorran**

Ice Capades once a staple of A.C. summer entertainment

- By Jerry Gordon For The Current
- Apr 4, 2019



Hoping to add excitement during the 1940-1941 entertainment season, nine men calling themselves "The Arena Managers Association" founded the **Ice Capades** in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in February, 1940 and produced its first performance in Pittsburgh, four months later.

From Pittsburgh, the company moved to Boardwalk Hall, then known as Convention Hall.

Every summer during the decades from 1941-1981 crowds would flock to Convention Hall to see the **Ice Capades** performances.

One of the most popular acts were the Old Smoothies, an older couple ballroom dancing around the ice rink. To attract children, later programs included Disney characters and of course the attractive showgirls in elaborate costumes delighted everyone. Naturally there was always comic routines, but needless to say all skated with skill.

While the **Ice Capades** remained a popular attraction, it saw its popularity decline during the early 1980s. Scott Hamilton, of Olympic fame, joined the company in 1984 but left later to form his own show, "Stars On Ice." In 1991 the company declared bankruptcy.

Ice Capades was a popular attraction but saw a decline in popularity in the early 1980s and the parent company went bankrupt in 1991. Scott Hamilton joined the company in 1984, but left later to start his own show, Stars on Ice.

Founded in 1913, the Atlantic County Historical Society has been preserving historical materials in its library and museum since. Every week, Wednesday to Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., it opens its doors to share these collections with anyone who is interested. The society building is at 907 Shore Road in Somers Point. More information is available at www.atlanticcountyhistoricalsocietynj.org and on Facebook, or by calling 609-927-5218.

[Remembering the 2015 Ice Capades Reunion](#)



[Click here to relive some memories & pictures](#)

[Comments from May Blade](#)

Thank you for all you do in keeping us all connected and informed. You do a wonderful job. - **Diane Belliveau**

Upcoming Events



2019 Skate America

October 18 – 20, 2019 - Las Vegas, NV

Ticket & hotel information, [click here](#)

Royal Ballroom Cruise January 20, 2020



Royal Caribbean Mariner of the Seas

4 Nights \$429.00 and up

Taking reservations now

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[Click here for more information.](#)



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