



SAD NEWS



Jeyne R. Brown, 1922-1918

On April 18th, Jeyne R. Brown was called home to be with her Lord and Savior - and cherished family members - at the age of 96. She was preceded in death by her parents, H. Justin and Agnes Marie (Presy) Brown, her brother, Justin Presy, her sisters (Agnes) Carolyn Kahn and Anne Elizabeth Port-man. Miss Brown had a wonderful life and impacted persons in every continent she visited by her genuine sweet, humble demeanor and winning business savvy. Born Mary Jean Brown on March 1, 1922 in Pittsburgh and a graduate of Dormont High School, she went to work in Atlanta for a fledging new airline – Delta Airlines. She worked for the president of the company and shortly after her arrival got her pilot license and flew him around the southeast for business meetings. **She later got an opportunity on the west coast and began her career with the Ice Capades in 1951.** She ascended from a secretary to become Vice President, Director of Marketing. Jeyne had Hollywood style and a flare for making things happen. She traveled the world providing the promotion and advance marketing for the coming Ice Capades show. The Ice Capades were the second US based company that performed in the Soviet Union as part of a cultural exchange program in 1961, where she and the company executives were accompanied to dinner by Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev. She made friends on every continent and kept in close touch with her extensive family around the world, as evidenced by over 350 Christmas cards she sent annually. Her roots were in Prince Edward Island (PEI) where her father was born. The Brown 'clan' is a very community active group on PEI where her presence will be missed from her many visits and support to the island. Jeyne was a practicing Catholic whose strong faith was her constant companion to the very end of her long, wonderful life. Jeyne is survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

[New Reunion Information](#)

New Dates – June 8, 9, 10, 2021



EVENT UPDATE: Announcing NEW DATES - JUNE 8, 9, 10, 2021! **We are offering our EARLY BIRD pricing through May 29th. \$355 (a \$20 savings per ticket).** If you are planning on coming, here's your chance to save off the full registration.

Know if you already paid, your registration is confirmed. You need not do anything, except look forward to having an amazing time seeing all our family/friends next Spring!

OMNI RESORT UPDATE: Due to CoVid-19, the Resort/Hotel is still closed, but should be opening to some degree very soon. Please know, that despite any indication from Central Reservations about a 1 night non-refundable rate – our contract clearly states *'refunds up to 72 hours of your arrival'*. Any confusions will be corrected. Please be patient, as they are doing the best they can. Please wait to make any new reservations for a few more weeks. Again, please be patient with the hotel. Omni has over 300 hotels... to coordinate through this unfortunate time. Thank you!

Questions: -- Stephanie Perom, Event Producer, (310) 962-5908 -Cell, IceCapadesReunion@outlook.com

[Click here for all 80th Anniversary Reunion Registration & Information](#)

[Click here to see who's coming](#)

OUR ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Young Pasadena dancer not fazed by National competition cancellation

By Don Maines By Don Maines Correspondent, Published 12:59 pm CDT, Monday, April 6, 2020



Photo: Courtesy Nicole Sciarrotta Nichols

Dancer Kennedy Nichols, 13, and her mother, Nicole Sciarrotta Nichols, a former professional figure skater, attend a Monsters of Hip Hop dance event. Kennedy Nichols says her goal is “to travel the world, doing tours with Missy Elliott or Beyoncé. They are really empowering to me.”

For a Pasadena family that practices the “Mamba Mentality” espoused by the late NBA legend Kobe Bryant, the novel coronavirus is just another bear, as in the Bryant quote, “If you see me in a fight with a bear, pray for the bear.”

“This year was really going smoothly,” said Kennedy Nichols, 13, a dancer who recently had flown to Boston, Massachusetts for a national competition, only to learn that it was canceled because of the pandemic.

As she and her mother, Nicole Nichols, headed home, they knew this year’s competition season could be put on hold, but not Kennedy’s training.

“There is always somebody else who will be training that day,” she said. “I never miss a day of dance.”

In 2018, Kennedy toured throughout the United States and Canada in the Monsters of Hip Hop Legacy Show. She was a student at Carter Lomax Middle School in Pasadena until traveling to competitions and professional appearances made homeschooling a more convenient option.

“I would go with her,” said Nicole, a former professional figure skater who was a 1992 junior national pairs champion and a junior world competitor in 1991-93.

“I have the same mentality as Kennedy,” she added. “All of my kids have the Mamba Mentality.”

They include Parker Nichols, 16, a basketball player at Pasadena Memorial High School, and Keith Nichols, 20, a 2018 graduate of Pasadena Memorial who now studies percussion at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

“Mamba Mentality is about dedication, consistency, never giving up and learning, even from your worst days,” said Nicole, 42, who began figure skating when she was 5 and who retired at 22.

The Mamba attitude reflects [the approach used by Bryant](#), a five-time NBA champion and member of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, when he played and coached youth girls basketball.

Nicole was touring nine months a year in the [Ice Capades](#) when a coach lured her to Houston to teach ice skating at the Galleria during her off months. She has been teaching ice skating in the Houston area for more than 20 years.

Kennedy said she was introduced to Mamba Mentality by her dance instructor, Sheila Milner, a former Pearland resident who owns DanceZone in Stafford.

Milner began hearing about Mamba Mentality in TV interviews in 2018, when Bryant became the first African American to win an Academy Award for best animated short film, for “Dear Basketball.”

With Mamba Mentality in mind, Milner said, “I treat my dancers like athletes. My son has been an athlete in high school and college; I was married to an athlete. It’s all about training your mind, to always push yourself through to the next goal.”

Bryant’s 2018 book, [“The Mamba Mentality: How I Play,”](#) has been at the top of the New York Times’ best-sellers list.

“I didn’t keep up with basketball; so his legacy to me is not in a basketball way, but the kind of human he is,” said Kennedy. “He taught perseverance, staying strong, never giving up.”

Kennedy said her goal is “to travel the world, doing tours with Missy Elliott or Beyoncé. They are really empowering to me. I also want to teach and choreograph.”

Don Maines is a freelance writer who can be contacted at donmaines@att.net

RELIVING FOND MEMORIES



Thanks Melissa Baker Nevins for posting this memory on Facebook

Don Watson commented: This really goes back! This was my 2nd season with Ice Cycles. Rehearsals for this one took place in Atlantic City summer of 1951. At the same time Ice Capades was performing there we were learning their show to take it on the road for a second season playing secondary markets under the name Ice Cycles.(Ice Capades owned Ice Cycles) It was fun with two companies together for a while. Our stars were Margaret Field & Jimmy Lawrence...and Melissa and Leo I enjoyed working with your fathers, principal performers Ronnie Baker & Marjorie Taylor & comedians Loeb & Slagle. Also on hand Asst Mgr & Lighting Director, Dick Palmer and his wife, Rita Palmer, Production Coordinator, who became my long time friends over many years. Also memorable was Rita conducting rehearsals shortly before the birth of her daughter, Dianne Palmer Walker. PS It's fun looking back. Keep in mind I was 16 years old at that time. What an adventure!

Videos of the Month

A trip down memory lane to when Willy Bietak Produced the Ice Capades for many years.

Stars of Ice Capades, 52 Edition "ICE CAPADES SALUTE!" Emmy Award winning choreographer, Sarah Kawahara, 1992-93



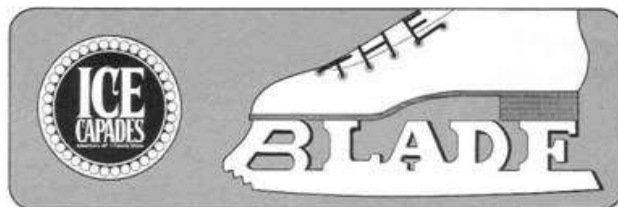
Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/IYTUisl8RgQ>



Part 2 - https://youtu.be/DxBZ6_VqceQ

Ice Capades of 1983, East: Smurfs' welcome and group precision opening, and girl soloist, Jean Yun; Brad Dowd - comedy send-up of Richard Dwyer (when you're famous enough to warrant a send-up, it has to be considered a com

1983 Opening - <https://youtu.be/cfjq2BVvZZo>



The website, www.icecapadestheblade.com has been revamped and more information has been added. It's still a work in progress. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here for **2021 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including the list of **who's coming**

Cast, Precision & Production Pictures – Relive some memories.

Rosters – Looking for someone or remembering who you skated with in the show?

Video links – have been collecting skating 'You Tube' links from the early years.

Program Covers – we had the most beautiful covers

Past Issues of The Blade – just in case you missed an issue

Past Reunion Pictures – relive the times you attended the reunions

In Memorium – remembering those who have left us too soon

Check it out!

Upcoming Events



<https://proskaters.org/>

[ProSkaters Facebook Page Link](#)

2020 ProSkater Open Live Competition in Sun Valley - July 26, 2020

*A new concept in Pro-Skating. A competition and theatrics rolled in one.

link to event: <https://proskaters.org/events/2020-proskater-open-live-competition/>

Sun Valley 2020 Live Auditions - July 27, 2020

Link To Event: <https://proskaters.org/events/2020-proskater-open-live-competition-2/>

Sun Valley ProSkater Workshop - July 28, 2020

Link to event: <https://proskaters.org/events/2020-sun-valley-proskater-workshop/>



<http://www.icetheatre.org/>

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