



Sad News

Ellen Johns Friedlander – April 1, 2022



It is with great sadness that Ellen Johns Friedlander died suddenly in Panama on 1st April 2022. Ellen skated with Ice Follies from 1963 to 1966 and she and her husband Herb who predeceased her were regulars at the last reunions. Ellen also skated with **Ice Capades**. They lived between Panama and Miami, but I remember Ellen saying that she would stay in Panama after Herb's death. Her Cousin Linda Mulvey's daughter Lori Kydes would like to hear from Ellen's friends in Ice Follies as she is writing the obituary and would love to add some information about her time with Ice Follies and any stories or recollections that you have. Linda and Ellen were very close and skated together, Ellen joining Ice Follies and Linda to teaching. Lori can be contacted at lori@cornerstoneconservatorships.com

Leila McKellen – May 18, 2022



Unfortunately have not received any more information on Leila's passing but condolences are sent out to her family. When information is received, will be posting it.

Carol Boyle – June 2022



Carol Boyle, of Forestville, passed away surrounded by the love of her daughter and sister-in-law earlier this month.

Born in San Francisco, she enjoyed a childhood filled with skateboarding and biking down to the beach, swimming and ice skating at Sutro Baths, fun summer days at Playland and a simple family life along with her older brother and sister.

Carol graduated from Presentation High School and went on to skate for the **Ice Capades**. Later, she joined the corporate world, working in the office of Matson Shipping. It was there, while working with her friend, Judy, she shared that she had met up with an "old classmate" and got a date. He would later go on to be her husband of over 50 years.

Carol and her husband, Frank, moved for a peaceful life among the redwoods where she enjoyed fishing, camping, gardening, taking walks (sometimes in the dark of night with flashlights while looking for frogs) and spending time with friends and family. She maintained various jobs, but her most treasured was being a part of the children's lives at the local Elementary School. She always had a warm smile when she recounted a story about a day in the classroom.

Services will be held on Tuesday, June 14th at 11:00 AM at Pleasant Hills Memorial Park in Sebastopol.

Carol is survived by her sister-in-law, Joan Wilson-Boyle; her brother-in-law, Norman (Dulce) Pinnella; nephews: Tom Williams; John (Tanya), Richard and Tom (Trish) Pinnella; many beloved great-nieces and great-nephews; and her daughter, Becky - who will do as her mother always requested, "find something good in every day."

ICE CAPADES REUNION UPDATE



The 80th reunion is finally in the books. Congratulations Stephanie on a job well done. You had obstacles that were out of your control and you persisted and for those who took the trek to Palm Springs, from the pictures, everyone had a great time.

This summarizes the feelings of everyone who attended the reunion.

Dear Stephanie,

Given that my typing is far clearer than my handwriting, I'll write here! ...What can I say? Words can't fully express my thanks to you for a truly wonderful and memorable Ice Capades Reunion! Your extremely hard work over seven (seven!) years was evident in all that you did because of how smoothly everything ran. (And without the financial backing of our former company, sadly no longer in existence). Actually, I doubt that I fully know all of what you did behind the scenes, but I do know of the lasting joy and wonderful time that was had by all, evident by all of the joy and smiles.

I so enjoyed chatting with you over the years, meeting Ross, and working on my small part of your big event.

Many kudos and thanks, Jan (O'Brien) Coopman

[Click here for Facebook Reunion pictures](#)

[Click here for David Sadleir's pictures](#)

60th reunion



65th reunion



70th reunion



75th reunion



80th reunion



85th Reunion – Can we keep the momentum going? Stay tuned.

Post Reunion Thoughts



After watching “The Fabulous Ice Age”, Jan (O’Brien) Coopman wanted to add her thoughts about the profession we chose and unfortunately why it is becoming extinct.

Are you familiar with Ice Capades? When growing up, I certainly was: Ice Capades and Ice Follies were well known and enjoyed by many families. I recall sitting with an open program on my lap, saying to myself that I will be there someday! Well, after more hard work, I skated for West Co. 1980-81 and East Co. 1981-82. And I still have lifelong friends from there.

Last week, many of us gathered in Palm Springs, CA for a long-awaited reunion (seven years in the making because of covid) that was very well organized and produced, thanks to Stephanie Perom. But sadly, such ice show productions are no more in the USA. For a glimpse into their history, Keri Pickett developed "The Fabulous Ice Age" video documentary that we all saw. And now, you can also learn about beginnings that included Charlotte, Sonja Henie, and later Mr. Debonair Richard Dwyer, JoJo Starbuck Gertler, Scott Hamilton, and others when viewing The Fabulous Ice Age.

Also enjoy a glimpse of some event pix, plus past show info with skaters such as Richard Dwyer, Gerty Desjardins Verbiwski, Lynn-Holly Johnson Givens (Ice Castles), and many more of us!

With me atop my SmartScoot from 17 years of MS and a three-week-old sprained ankle, our 86-year-old still axel jumping friend was a cheerful good sport when joining me on the dance floor. Mr. Debonair, indeed!

And former Ice Capades skater Gloria Spoden in Canada has been producing The Blade e-news monthly for all of us to stay connected and impart interesting skating information. Kudos!

<https://bit.ly/3zXdzcf>

<https://bit.ly/3HNUSJU>

<https://www.fabulousiceage.com/>



Hey Toronto, anyone up for a mini reunion?

When was the last time you went sailing on Lake Ontario?

Now's your chance.

Jill (Newby) Kalev & I would like to get our alumni together in Toronto. We were thinking about a mini reunion on **Thursday July 28th**. We could meet around noon at Bluffers Park Yacht Club in Scarborough for a luncheon and visit on a patio overlooking Lake Ontario. Afterwards we could give all who wish, a short sail on one of 3 sailboats made available to us.



We would like to know if there is enough interest to hold a mini reunion.

Email me directly if you would like to come and we'll get back to you with the details.

gspoden@rogers.com

Please pass this on to anyone who might not be on Facebook and live in the Toronto area, but anyone is invited.

Covid kept us apart so whenever we have the

opportunity to get our Ice Capades family together, we should do it.

Videos of the Month



Who do you know can still do an axel at 86?

It's our ageless Richard Dwyer, of course. He makes it look so easy.

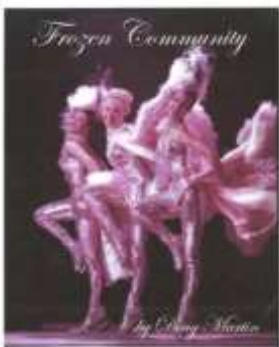
[Check him out](#)



Here is a special treat of Richard & Gerty's show number in 1982.

[Click here](#)

RELIVING FOND MEMORIES



Doug Martin had published two books called 'Frozen Community' where he wanted to have skaters tell funny stories about their time on the road. Stories were posted before but worth sharing again.

Terry Derfield skated with Ice Capades from 1947 – 1960, starting originally with Ice Cycles, which became Ice Capades second unit. Terry has a treasure trove of stories from the old days, from labeling publicity

photos for advance packets (just to get 50 cents extra for food), to Willie Kall pulling a hamburger around on a wire like a pet, *seriously, some of the stuff we ate seemed half alive.).

Here are a few of Terry's favorite remembrances.

Our costumes were always an interesting challenge. One time we were doing a ballet, *Les Sylphides*. The boys performed in very tight cream-colored costumes. But someone messed up, and instead, they were laundered and bleached white (which means they no longer matched the top part of the buys' costumes. Not only that, they shrunk, a lot! The boys sucked it up and too to the ice anyway. But as my partner, Roy Gibb made his first moves, his pants split completely in half, back and front, from the crotch to the waist. I shielded him as best I could as he backed off the ice, with his pant legs hanging loose to his sides, and everyone else, well, open to the air.

One season in Salt Lake City, Utah, Gayle Winters and I had to do a publicity call as Monkey Wards (Montgomery Wards). This was just past of life on the road, as we did what we were told. As professional athletes, we looked pretty good and were sought after models. Ordinarily, it was a good way to promote the show too. This time, however, we were asked to model flannel pajamas, just standing in their big front store window – in the middle of a Utah blizzard. But we did it, trying not to giggle, and wondering who in the heck would ever see us from the outside? By the way, we didn't receive extra pay.

In the summers of 1949 and 1950, the show made two trips to London, England. This was good news for us skaters, who were usually laid off during the summer months. That first summer, the long 10-day journey aboard ship was to leave out of New York City. The day before departure we were asked to go down to the port and identify our wardrobe trunks. As we got there, we were excited to see a beautiful ship named the *S. S. America* at the dock. Naturally, we all assumed we would be traveling on that ship and our imaginations began to weave stories of the luxuries we would enjoy over the next ten days.

Unfortunately, the next day when we arrived to board our ship, the *America* was nowhere to be seen. It was gone, and in its place was the *Maritime Shark* – a run down World War II troop ship, complete with peeling paint and gun turrets. It was a sad looking thing from the outside, and the inside was even worse. We were assigned to dormitory-style bunk beds, with 16 bunks to a dormitory. Along the walls were metal lockers for our belongings. Unfortunately, there were no latches on the lockers and they wouldn't stay shut. As the ship rolled in the Atlantic, the locker doors would swing open day and night, clanging constantly, making it very difficult to sleep.

To add insult to injury, there was not alcohol aboard the ship. Those who'd had the foresight to bring their own liquor were very popular. Once across, though, the London experience was otherwise wonderful, and our return ship was a definite improvement.

My final story deals with dress rehearsals, which were always very demanding, grueling experiences. But there was one particular dress rehearsal in Washington, DC., that was

probably the worst of all. Our first show of the new season was scheduled to open at the outdoor Carter-Barron Amphitheater in Rock Creek Park. In the summer months, outdoor ice surfaces couldn't be used during the day, and had to be covered with a tarp to protect the ice from melting.

Our dress rehearsal began at 8:30 pm the night before the big opening. We had just gotten started when it began to rain. We'd try to rehearse when the rain let up, usually only managing a half hour of rehearsal before it would start to rain again. We'd have to go back to our dressing rooms, wait indefinitely for the rain to stop, then start again. After multiple stops and starts, we were only about one-quarter of the way through our routines, and it was already 1:00 am.)

Then the big boss, John H. Harris, arrived, ominous and official like bosses are. He decided he wanted to see the show from the beginning, so we stopped mid-rehearsal and started all over again. The skaters hadn't eaten since dinner, and the only food available was in a nearby vending machine, which emptied very quickly. The rehearsal went on until sunrise – skating and raining and starving, all under the close supervision of Mr. Harris – at which point, with the sun peeking through the gloomy clouds, the ice had to be covered again. And we'd barely begun rehearsal for the second half of the show. But we were done – with an unfinished dress rehearsal. Everyone was sent back to their rooms, tired and hungry. Yet we had a successful opening that evening, and the audience was none the wiser.

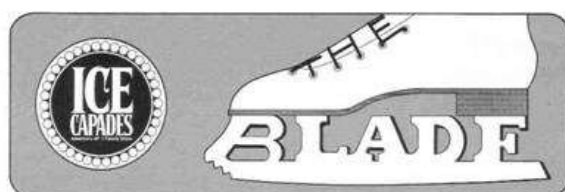
USFA is Looking for Skaters



US Figure Skating for the Centennial Year is reaching out to find and connect former and current members who skated any time in USFS history to reconnect. Please consider registering!!! Share with those skating friends you stay in touch with!!

I can imagine some fun reconnecting events!!!

[Click here for more information](#)



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 **2022 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including reunion pictures

Cast, Precision & Production Pictures – Relive some memories.

Past reunion Pictures – Check them out for some you may have missed.

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



CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

Ice Theatre of New York, Inc ®

presents

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

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