

Sad News

Janice Smith – June 29, 2022



Janice Diane Smith, age 79, of O'Fallon, MO, passed away on June 29, 2022, surrounded by members of her loving family.

Janice is survived by her husband, John H. Smith, who was married to Janice on August, 12, 2006. She is also survived by her son John Adams, daughter-in-law Tanya Adams, her grandson, Andrew Adams and his wife Brooke, her grand-daughter, Arianna Pence and her husband Christian, her great-grandson, Wellington Adams, and her brother, James C. Rogers. Throughout her life, Janice developed and enjoyed loving relationships with many, many friends from far and wide, including her special relationship with the "Ladies from the Class of '61" at Chattanooga High School, who Janice looked forward to meeting with at least once every year, to celebrate their lifelong friendship!

Janice was known to all as a loving and free spirit, whose passions and many talents were on full display throughout her life: as professional ice skater in the **Ice Capades**; a modern dancer, competing at the highest levels; a business women, involved in sales and marketing her entire life; an artist, bringing joy to thousands with her Air Brush Tattoos, Glitter Art, and Face & Rock Painting Events all over the country. But most of all, she was a loving, caring, compassionate

(to use her words), “eternal spirit having a human experience”, who loved her husband and family deeply, treasured friendships, laughed often, and both loved her life and lived it to the fullest.

Family and friends will surely miss Janice, but we are comforted by the knowledge that she is finally at peace, and now, coming to the end of her life on this earth, is in the presence of her Creator.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, August 6th, 2022, at 11:00 am at the Christ Fellowship, Royal Palm Beach Campus. Information about live streaming the event to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that any memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society. The family would also like to express our sincere thanks to the staff at the Siteman Cancer Center and BJC Hospitals, whose world class care for Janice over the last year was exemplary!

ICE CAPADES REUNION RECAP

from Stephanie



For those who could not attend our Reunion... I so wish you could have been there. We had a fabulous time! Here's what I ended up posting on my personal site. So delighted that so many were thrilled with the Palm Springs Resort and the ability to all spend quality time together. I am so happy it all turned out as I had envisioned!

Much love to you all! Till we have a chance to meet again! - Stephanie

For friends who knew I was producing the ICE CAPADES REUNION, I just want to let you know... it was a huge success! So so happy, everyone enjoyed the Resort and had a fabulous time! Everyone who participated... enjoyed the walks, yoga & dance classes, Memorabilia Exchange Party, the film *The Fabulous Ice Age*, and short film about the history of figure skating (both directed & produced by Keri Pickett), and the Costumer Designer Presentation by Paul Hartis, of Bill Campbell's amazing history of costume work.

The Gala ended up a very special night, with videos of our Flashdance mob scenes from previous years in Vegas, and other select film pieces about our history as Ice Capades. Also, on display were Ice Capette photos of the 1960's & early 1970's enlarged and on display, with sketches of costumes provided by Paul Hartis, and our (almost) famous 'dolls' in costumes - and the array of performance costumes - in gratitude... to Toni Veronick for driving the Costumes and all, to Palm Springs, and to Willy Bietak Productions for loaning them all to us. A big thank you, again,

to Robin Briley and James Bolser for helping me to put all the videos together for the presentation.

We also payed homage to those in our audience over 85 yrs.old. We gave a big round of applause for Gigi Trenkler, a chorus skater (who skated in the 1950's & 1960's); our beloved Don Watson, who started skating as a soloist in the 1940's with Sonja Henie. He then continued to work in live 'touring' entertainment all of his career, and was Tour Manager to many of us, in the 1970's & 1980's; Margaret Field-Beard who also was a soloist in the 1940's & 1950's, and came back and then skated with her family in the 1960's; Roy Blakey who was inspired by Sonja Henie, skated in shows in the 1960's, and took photos of so many famous skaters, and who's Memorabilia collection, the 'The Ice Stage Archive' of skating history is like no other; and John Nicks, who himself skated and competed in pairs in his youth with his sister - but, best known as the Skating Coach to so many great performers, including JoJo Starbuck & Ken Shelley, Randy Gardner & Tai Babilonia, Richard Ewell, Lynn Holly Johnson, to name a few Ice Capades performers, as well as, other Olympians Peggy Fleming, Tiffany Chan, Christopher Bowman, Kristi Yamaguchi, Rudy Galindo, Rory Flack, Naomi Nari Nam, Ashley Wagner, Sasha Cohen, and our current World Champions, Jenni Meno & Todd Sand.

Our last honoree was truly the man of the hour, "Mr. Debonair," Richard Dwyer. Richard started skating professionally in 1950. He was a Jr. Champion, who competed against Dick Button, but was swept up by Roy Shipstad, to replace himself as he was retiring (from Ice Follies), and so began Richard's long illustrious career - where he skated with Ice Follies for about 17yrs., then with Ice Capades for another 11yrs. or so. Originally dubbed the "Young Debonair" at about 14 yrs. old, eventually became known as Mr. Debonair. We also showed a wonderful series of clips, one of him in a great interview, and of him skating solo, and as a pair partner with Gerty Desjardins (Verbiewski) (Also, a pair champion in her own right). We gave him a wonderful robe as a gift, listing all the shows he'd performed in on the back, along with a dozen Roses. Such a wonderful night of reflection.

Thank you once again Ice Capades family, for the honor of representing our show, for those wonderful few days of fun, laughter and memories. Finally starting to feel rested, and ready to take on the next chapter in my life. Much love to you all. Especially my partner [Ross](#), who stood by my side the last several months, and helped out throughout the weekend. [Stephanie](#)

[Click here for Facebook Reunion pictures](#)

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



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

Alumni in the News

FORMER OLYMPIC SKATER SAYS IT'S ALL ABOUT WORKING WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

By [Kellie Butler Farrell](#) – Keys Weekly

June 1, 2022



The energetic octogenarian is an Olympic figure skater who, at the age of 22, competed for Sweden and later went on to join the Ice Capades.

It's often said that in this quirky, sun-baked, fabulous island chain, you never know who could be sitting right next to you. If you happen to take a chair yoga class at Founders Park, you just might find yourself seated next to an Olympian.

“1964 was my Olympic year with Peggy Fleming and that was my generation.” Meet 80-year-old Ann-Margreth Hall-Frei (Margreth spelled the Swedish way). The energetic octogenarian is an Olympic figure skater who, at the age of 22, competed for Sweden and later went on to join the Ice Capades.

“I was on tour with the show for 16 years and really loved it. We went all over the world,” she said.

Frei married an American she met in Vail, Colorado while running an ice-skating school. They were married for 30 years and had a son, Zander. Frei’s husband passed away nine years ago.

Now Frei spends several months a year in Islamorada with her son, Capt. Zander Hall. Hall owns Lightly Salted Charters and Frei loves going to the sandbar with him. She enjoys her time in Islamorada so much that over Thanksgiving, she stayed for 10 weeks.

“My son said, ‘Mom, when are you going back?’ And I said, ‘Well, I came with a one-way ticket,’” Frei said with a laugh. She added that splitting her time between Vail and Islamorada is the best of both worlds.

The visit this time will only be for a month. While here, Frei sticks to a routine and never misses the gentle chair yoga class held at the Founders Park amphitheater. The class is upbeat, with moves choreographed to music. Frei performs every move perfectly, but she does have the inside edge – she has the grace and dexterity one would expect from an Olympic figure skater. This is a low impact workout that helps improve flexibility, strength and coordination.

“It always feels good. The best thing is the music and the joy it brings us,” said Frei.

There’s also a crucial social aspect to the class. Friendships are made here and encouragement is always a given.

“A lot of my students will show up 20 minutes early just to have that time where they can chat amongst each other,” said fitness coach and Plantation Key Fitness owner Heather Head. “You’ll see some of them will linger after class for quite a while and talk. I love seeing that.”

Several studies on aging stress the importance of social interaction for seniors. Strong social ties have been linked to a decreased risk of depression and a longer life span. “I never see frowns in this class,” added Head.

Hip problems have left this former Olympic figure skater with some limitations, but she remains positive and undeterred.

“Everybody does whatever they can. You work with what you have.”

At 80, Frei is nowhere near the oldest “yogi” in this chair yoga class. “The lady next to me, I think she’s 92 now. Amazing. She’s my inspiration.” Turns out the lady Frei is referring to, Mickey, is actually 96 years old and never misses a beat.

Frei is enjoying every second of her retirement and especially loves to travel and meet new people. When asked what it was like competing at the Olympic level, with the best of the best, she paused for a second and said it wasn’t until after the fact that she realized it was a life-changing experience that led to a wonderful professional career.

“It was just a competition with a lot of hype and stress. It’s only afterwards, a few years later, that I realized what an amazing gift that was.”

Videos of the Month



Tommy Litz – 1964 - 6th at Winter Olympics - first skater to land 3T Loop

In an era when men were practically forbidden from raising their arms above shoulder level, musical interpretation had to be done from the waist down and back in 1964, you would have been hard pushed to find a better example than this incredible performance by Tommy Litz, who also landed the first triple toe loop in major international competition here. He finished in sixth but was second in the free and even had three first places. This was despite his own judge placing him TWELFTH(!!!!) in the free. [Click here to see Tommy’s performance.](#)

Richard Dwyer & Gerty Desjardins



<https://youtu.be/4rnuwr94VfM>

Here’s a special treat from 1982.

RELIVING FOND MEMORIES

Special Memories

Paula (Seaman) Callahan was in the show from 1963-64. She wanted to share her experience and memories while being with the #1 Show. See if this brings back some of your own memories as well.



I skated in the 25th Edition of Ice Capades in 1963-64. I rode the train to Atlantic City from Cleveland with George Bussey(Verbiwski). I met Bill and Glenda Brenner and Pat Forbes that first week in rehearsals. I rented a room over a restaurant on the boardwalk for \$25 a week.

I was smoking and drinking as an 18 year old so as to appear sophisticated, I was so thrilled to be part of the show and thanked my lucky stars for ballet and skating lessons. I even sat with John

Harris at the show dinner at Hackney's Seafood Restaurant on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. Mr. Harris ordered crab cakes for me.

In 1983, in California, I re-connected with Joanie Plimley, Chris Wood, and Terri Reuter and we all met for lunch in Los Angeles.

I toured with Holiday on Ice in 1964-65. I roomed with Adri Verzaal (who later married Mike Edwards). I also dated Butch Collins and asked Mr. Morris Chalfen if I could go to Europe. He said "yes". Then, I skated the Gypsy/Dolly show with HOI in Europe.

I came back to USA in 1966 and only skated recreationally in brown CCM hockey skates. I skated at Winterhurst Rink in Lakewood, Ohio. The same rink that Carol Heiss taught skating.

One other tidbit--I became close friends with Lynn (Finnegan) Jouannet while living in Cleveland, Ohio. We used to play tennis and we shopped a lot and I was there when Christopher was born. She was lovely and those are some of the enduring memories that will always be in my heart.

I had planned on attending the reunion but hip replacement surgery on June 9 prevented travel.

It would have been wonderful to see even just a handful of the gals I skated with back then.

I still have my sterling silver key fob #33 Ice Capades 25th Edition and also wanted to mention that I was best friends with Carole Ann Warner in Gypsy/Dolly show Europe 1965-66. Partied with Ted Shuffle, Ted Suggett, Jackie Phillips, and Tony Smale almost every night.

Still friends with Lido de Paris dancer, Colleen Forsyth. Rehearsal in Nice, France for 6 weeks and opened the show in Paris. Final 2 cities were Athens, Greece and Istanbul, Turkey. It was the best of times for me. Memories of beautiful places and friends.

Last tidbit-I went to the same high school as Karen Kresge! I would drive us to our skating lessons every Wednesday and Saturday to the Towne and Country Skating rink in Strongsville, Ohio. What a small world. God bless. paulacalla@gmail.com



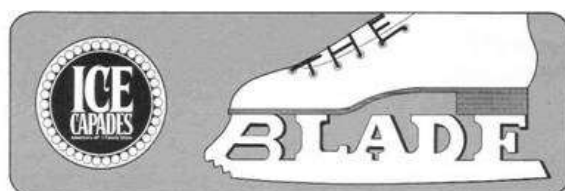
USFA is Looking for Skaters



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



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