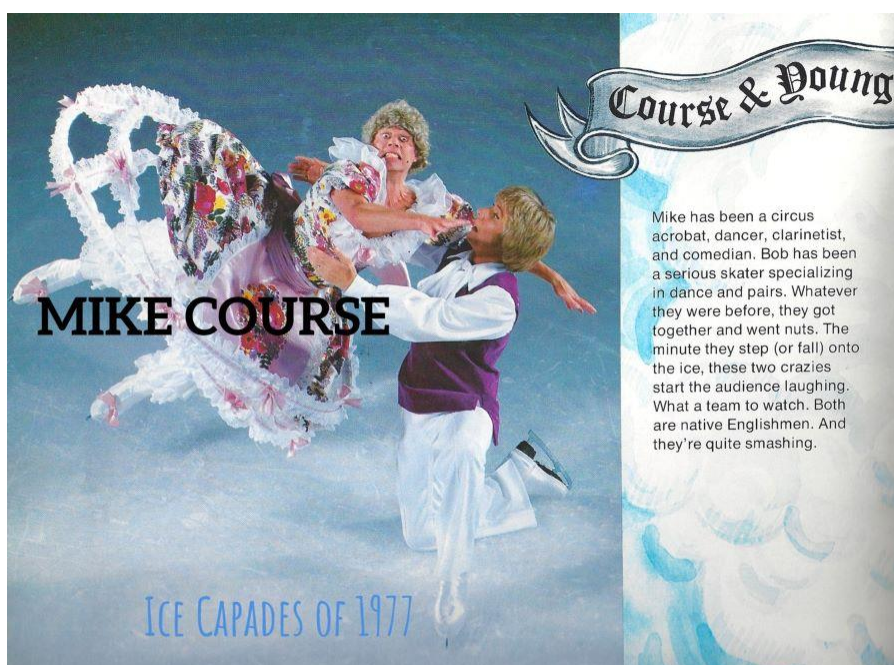


Sad News

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mike Course. Unfortunately there are no details available but as soon as we get them, it will be posted. In the meantime, here are a couple fond memories.



Perhaps one of the funniest people we've ever met, [Mike Course](#) was a pleasure to know and spend time with. Always a good laugh, guaranteed to make you smile. Such a funny, nice, genuine guy. It's with heavy hearts, Sandra Vivian Lund-Course and Ashelen Lund Course acknowledge his passing, but we know he would want us to live on and laugh loudly, so please have a glass of wine in celebration of his life. We love you Mike.
May you Rest In Peace!

Gerry Mahoney Tilghman, ice skating prodigy, Ice Capades star, model, and teacher, has died at 88



She toured Europe when she was a teenager, trained with some of the world's top coaches, and drew rave reviews wherever she performed.

Ms. Tilghman was known for her dazzling performances, gregarious personality, and dedication to her skating. Courtesy of the family by [Gary Miles](#) Published Nov 7, 2022

Gerry Mahoney Tilghman, 88, formerly of Bryn Mawr, a dynamic ice skating prodigy who became a headliner for **Ice Capades**, and Holiday on Ice, a model, and skating teacher, died Friday, Sept. 16, of a pulmonary embolism at her son's home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

A natural-born skater as a teenager, Ms. Tilghman left high school before her senior year and became an international sensation, starring as Cinderella, Goldilocks and other characters in elaborate ice shows throughout the United States and Europe from 1951 to 1956. She was featured among dozens of other skaters, wore elegant bejeweled costumes, and was celebrated for her eye-popping spins, physical artistry, and smooth skating.

She performed at least three solo skates for many of her shows, was known for her "million-dollar personality," and her glamorous publicity photographs appeared in publications across the country, including on the front pages of The Inquirer on Oct. 17, 1951, and Los Angeles Times on May 7, 1952.

She trained with pioneering coaches Gustave Lussi, Bob Dench, and Rosemarie Stewart. **John Harris, then producer and president of Ice Capades**, told the Main Line Times in September 1951 that Ms. Tilghman "is the best possible prospect we have had for stardom in the 12-year history of Ice Capades."



Ms. Tilghman (right front) and her troupe made the front page of The Inquirer in 1951. Courtesy of the family

City officials in Nashville appeared with her in public to promote her shows there. They artificially froze a lake in Phoenix in 1953 so she could perform in the desert, and one newspaper previewed her show by writing that she displays "skill and smoothness generally found only in veteran competitors."

Although generally quiet about her early success, Ms. Tilghman sometimes shared stories of life on the road, telling family and friends about the people she met, the antics she witnessed, and how she was almost swept overboard while crossing the Atlantic on the Queen Elizabeth ocean liner. "She didn't go wild on those trips," said her daughter Lilla. "She took it very seriously, and not everybody did."

Fame and fortune, Ms. Tilghman often said, were unintended consequences of her spending so much time on skates. Her real joy, she said, was that "I found peace on the ice."

[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

In the News

Here's Your Opportunity to Help Continue a Skating Legacy!

By Jan O'Brien Coopman

There is a real need in the figure skating world, **and you may help!** To join in the goal of continuing the SP-Teri figure skating boot legacy, Olympian, PSA Master-Rated Coach, and new owner Bill Fauver is searching for investors to renovate a weather-damaged manufacturing, storage, and shipping facility.

How this came about

Some years ago, I decided to buy a new pair of figure skates because my former Ice Capades boots were clearly worn. At that time, a skating pro shop employee helped me to obtain a new pair of SP-Teri boots from George Spiteri in San Francisco.

Flash forward to 2010. After a big move from Chicago to Texas, I managed to briefly skate for a sweet 15 minutes at the Dallas Galleria: but that was it. Now at year 17 of MS, I sadly decided to sell my barely used newer skates because I felt it time for someone else to enjoy using them—rather than having the skates adorn my closet in a box. One exploration led to another. I discovered that SP-Teri moved, and George Spiteri retired in 2019.

Three years ago, SP-Teri transitioned in location and ownership from South San Francisco to near Nashville, Tennessee with Bill Fauver. The issue is that the new spot was soon afterward destroyed by a tornado—and then, after relocating to McEwen, further damaged by a historic flood (a state record 31" of rain in 24 hours fell there). Rebuilding will take assistance. If you're able to help, Fauver and those in McEwen will be grateful (as will many skaters relying upon SP-Teri boots).

Bill Fauver and George Spiteri



[Click here to read the rest of the article](#)

Go Figure: The Randy Gardner Story Documentary

Randy Gardner held a screening with some very special friends on Nov. 17 for a benefit screening in West Hollywood/LA of Go Figure: The Randy Gardner Story Documentary to benefit the AIDS Movement A film by [Sharidan Sotelo](#) Music by [Eric Radford](#)



IC alums in the house. L-R: S.Henderson, C.Stuart, Patti, [Linda Allen](#), Dr. Linda, R and T.

Go Figure: The Randy Gardner Story – All proceeds will go to The Aids Monument.

The Randy Gardner Story is the riveting documentary of Randy Gardner of the World champion pair figure skating team of Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner.

The two gained infamy as the heartbreak kids of the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics. Just as the pair was about take to the Olympic ice for their event, they had to withdraw due to Randy's injury. Tai and Randy were slated to be the original "Miracle on Ice". The USA was counting on "America's Sweethearts" to win the Gold over the long dominant Soviets. It was the ultimate Cold War battle played out on a sheet of ice.

This public persona as World Champion and two-time Olympian is well known.

What isn't known and has now been put on film in Go Figure: The Randy Gardner Story, is Randy's personal story. A story that delves beneath the cool, calm and collected demeanor he displayed in his feats of strength and artistry lifting his pair partner, Tai. A story that is filled with family secrets, closeted homosexuality and the price paid. A story that epitomizes the human quest to seek out and find ones true identity.

Director Sharidan, using footage from Randy's one man show, skating practices and competitions, scrapbook clippings and home movies, along with newly filmed sequences and interviews, has woven together the pieces of Randy's life into a poignant and compassionate film that is at once, heart rending, uplifting and inspiring.

Picture of the Month



Gary Jones on a recent trip to Lake Placid meeting up with Tommy & Glenda Litz

Upcoming Events



All Skater's Reunion – May 1 – 3, 2023

NOVEMBER REUNION UPDATE

It's been brought to our attention that some think that this is a Holiday on Ice Reunion.

This Reunion is open to everyone who worked in any capacity in any of the Ice Shows around the World! We're one big family, and this is a family reunion of sorts.

**In order to confirm the All-Skater's Reunion,
you need to register and pay by December 1, 2022.**

[Click here to see who's coming and Reunion info.](#)

For folks who want information about the 2023 Las Vegas Ice Show Reunion, DATES: May 1-3 of 2023 (Monday-Wednesday) or are not receiving the newsletter updates, please email us at HOIFamilyreunion@gmail.com, and we'll put you on the newsletter distribution list.

Online Link to register: <https://www.formpl.us/form/6524508642738176>

[Click here for details & updates](#)

ICE CAPADES REUNION RECAP



Bob Recker kindly supplied this video from the recent reunion in Palm Springs.

Click on either link

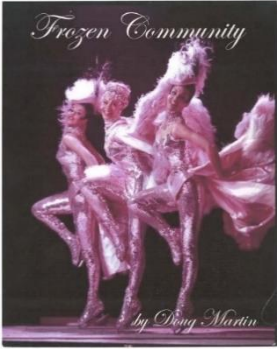
[ICE CAPADES 2022 REUNION.mp4](#)

<https://tinyurl.com/3chzb9ak>

[Click here for Facebook Reunion pictures](#)

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

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.

Dave Pitts recollects Freddie Trenkler's classic prank on Johnny LaBrecque. It's been posted before but worth posting it again for your Christmas Eve read.

It was in Cleveland, Ohio, one year that Freddie Trenkler, prankster that he was, pulled his famous water joke on Johnny LaBrecque. Since our dressing rooms were so old and had overhead water pipes that ran their full length, Freddie got an idea. He ran a long, thin tube – which was virtually invisible unless you knew what to look for – from beneath his makeup table, up the wall, and across the pipes, stopping directly over LaBrecque's seat at the long makeup table where we all sat side by side to put on our show makeup.

We had no idea what Freddie had done. All we knew was that a few minutes after Johnny sat down to start his makeup, water began to drip, drip dripping onto Johnny's head and shoulders from the pipes high above him. He looked confused for a few minutes as he tried to figure out where the water was coming from. He even tried to move his chair, but we were so crowded together that he couldn't get away from the drip, drip, dripping of the water, which was landing on him alone.

Throwing a fit, Johnny demanded that because he'd been in the show longer than the rest of us, and therefore had seniority, he exchanged places with Freddie's assistant. I believe it was Doug Martin at the time. So after bantering a few words back and forth, good-natured Doug gave in and switched places. Naturally, the moment they switched, the water stopped dripping. Doug asked what Johnny was complaining about, because nothing was dripping on him. Johnny bitched and complained, but moved back to his spot in front of his costumes. A few minutes went by, and again the pipes above Johnny began to drip, drip, dripping. Well, this time Johnny went ballistic and demanded that Doug switch places with him again. So good Ole Doug switched back, and, of course, the dripping immediately stopped.

Since Johnny and his partner, George Bussey, we're always the first comedy act that followed the opening number, they had to leave the dressing room and get backstage to warm up, and be ready to go on the ice. The moment they left, Freddie jumped up, grabbed a step ladder that he had stored away, climbed up and moved the tubing so that it would once again stop over Johnny's new seat at the makeup table. While this was going on, the rest of us sat there fascinated and then, warned by Freddie that we couldn't laugh or in any way blow his joke, anxiously awaited LaBrecque's return.

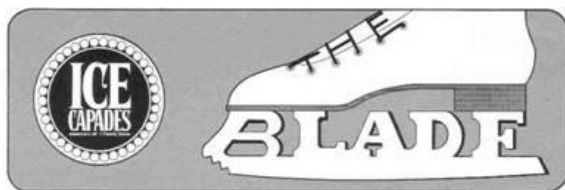
With their act over, Johnny, in his usual happy, blustery mood about how good his performance went, took off his costume, put on a robe, and sat down at his new spot at the makeup table to remove his comic's makeup and get ready for his next number. Almost immediately, the water began drip, drip, dripping. This time, Johnny went berserk, and the rest of us, Doug included, who were now privy to the joke, did everything we could to hide our faces and to keeping from laughing out loud.

When Johnny once again demanded that Doug switch places with him, Doug put up a little fight before giving in. Momentarily satisfied, Johnny left the room to cool down and have a cup of coffee. The moment he left, Freddie jumped up and re-switched the tubing, only this time George was also in on the gag.

Johnny returned in a much better mood, and sat down to begin putting on his makeup for second comedy spot. Almost immediately the water began to drip, drip, dripping. Johnny jumped up, screaming and carrying on, then stomped out of the dressing room in search of the manager, Jack Balmer, to complain about the rotten, no good dressing room with the drippy pipes.

The moment he left, Freddie climbed up and removed the tubing so that when Johnny returned with Jack there was no evidence. Jack took one look at our faces and knew we'd all been up to no good. Playing the role of manager, he simply said, "I see the bad pipes have stopped themselves. I don't expect them to start dripping again, necessitating another visit from me. Have a good show." But as he left, there was no mistaking the knowing smile on his face.

The rest of the show went off as planned, with no further incidents, but that night at the bar, Jack came up and quietly asked who did what, and how? When told, he got a big grin on his face, said, "I love it." And went to get another beer.



The website, www.icecapadestheblade.com has been revamped and more information has been added. 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!

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](#)

Upcoming Events



CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

Ice Theatre of New York, Inc[®]

presents

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

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