

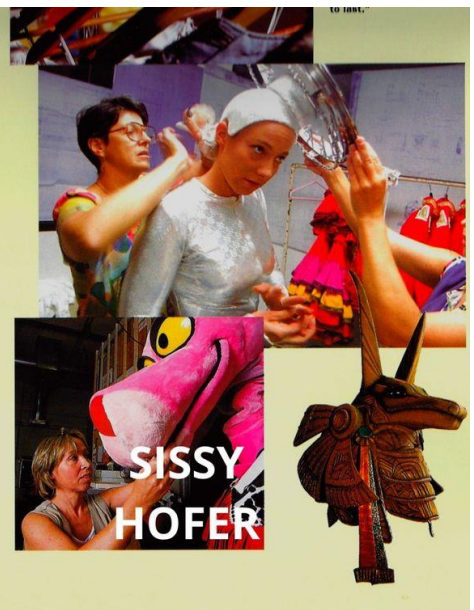
## Sad News

Sissy Hofer died on October 22, 2022 in her sleep on a train toward the beginning of her travel back to Vienna from Las Vegas.



### Crafting the Costumes

- The work sometimes involves more artistry than sewing, Sissy says. Case in point: the Pink Panther costumes, which are made from different densities of foam for the head, feet, and body. After covering the foam with fur or fabric, wardrobe artists airbrush it to give it dimension and help it “read” better from a distance.
- Almost every costume has lo-o-n-g zippers. This allows skaters to change quickly between numbers, slipping costumes on and off without removing their skates.
- The wardrobe artists create duplicates of the most critical costumes. Those extras can be lifesavers: Last year, during the tour of *Cinderella*, the prince’s costume disappeared and was never found. Luckily, a back-up took its place, and the show went on.
- Costumes are made to last for years, since many Ice Capades shows tour for up to three successive seasons. The costumes must be lightweight, yet strong enough to last for literally hundreds of performances.
- And what happens once a production is completed? The costumes are retired to a large storeroom—“almost a museum,” Sissy says, where they’re carefully preserved.



1996 - 1997

### Karen Genrich – Dec. 1, 2022



Genrich - Karen G. (nee Frauenheim)

A loving, devoted, and nurturing mother, sister, elementary and special education teacher, passed away on December 01, 2022 in Portland, Oregon at the age of 76 years young. Karen was preceded in death by her loving parents, George Frauenheim and Grace Yungbluth Frauenheim, stepfather Matthew Jasen, and her brother Robert Vincent Frauenheim, and is survived by her four children, Gretchyn, Gabrielle, Gillian, and Graham; four grandchildren, Vivienne and Madeleine, William and Alexis; her four sisters and brother, Susan Bradley, Rita Byers, Elizabeth Abbott, Kathryn Dennison, and Jeff Frauenheim.

Karen was born to George and Grace Frauenheim in Buffalo, New York. She described her childhood as "wonderful," growing up with four sisters, two brothers and her parents. She had a passion for figure skating, and she described skating as her "main reason for existing from the age of ten years old to sixteen years old." She was later able to get a surprise visit to the Figure Skating Hall of Fame in Colorado Springs, Colorado with her children. Karen received her Associates Degree from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia in 1965. She then completed her Bachelor of Arts at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York, and then later received a Master's in Special Education from the Buffalo State College, New York, while working full time.

When Karen finished college, she and her late friend, Michele, joined the Ice Follies and **Ice Capades**. The skating passion grew and they both later traveled with Holiday on Ice throughout Europe at a time when international travel was uncommon - Karen and Michele were the only Americans selected for that tour. She had many formative experiences overseas and developed a strong appreciation for traveling, which she would continue to enjoy, and later instill in her children. After returning from Holiday on Ice, she began her teaching career.

[Click here to read the complete article](#)

## Janette (Osostowicz) Chelhowski – Dec. 18, 2022



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Janette Chelhowski. It's unfortunate to add that her husband Joe had just passed away on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

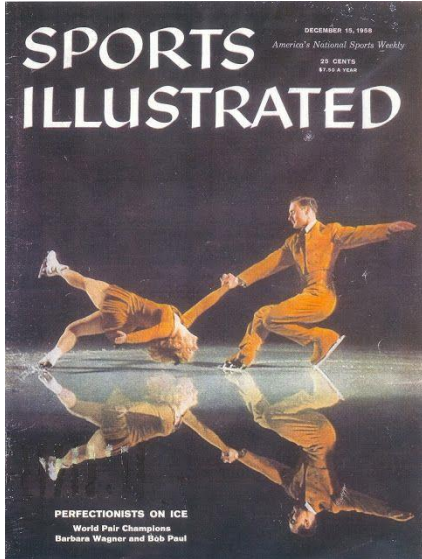
Janette S. Chelhowski, 71, North Wildwood entered into eternal rest Sunday, December 18 at Cape Regional Medical Center. Born February 7, 1951 in Beckenham England, she was the daughter of the late Jerry and

Barbara KrzuzanowskaOsostowicz.

Janette moved to Canada where she attended business school. She would eventually move to the United States and become a US Resident. She had a passion for ice skating which led her to become a professional ice figure skater having worked with the **Ice Capades**. She eventually went on to teach ice skating in PA and NJ. In addition to ice skating, she loved the beach and shelling. One of her favorite past times was combing the beach for the perfect seashell. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister Elizabeth Osostowicz and her dear husband Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Chelhowski who departed this earthly world on December 8, 2022. Janette is survived by her son Joseph husband of Ashlyn, several grand doggies and many friends.

[Click here for funeral details](#)

## Beauty on Ice



February 19, 1960: Figure skaters Robert Paul and Barbara Wagner perform flawlessly at the Olympic Games in Squaw Valley and skate to Olympic gold at the winter games. A minute into their programme they approached the judges and asked to start over because a skip in the record threw them off balance. All seven judges give the couple first place scores, marking the first time in Olympic history that the gold medal has been awarded to a non-European pair.

## Video of the Month

**Let's start out the New Year by reliving a moment in time with our own Underhill & Martini skating an amazing perfect program, winning the 1984 World Championships.**



Barb Underhill and Paul Martini came back from a devastating competition at the Olympic Games with this tremendous comeback at the 1984 World Championships. 1984 World Figure Skating Championships, Pairs' Long Program - Barbara Underhill and Paul Martini of Canada skated a perfect program in front of their home audience and moved up from 2nd Place to win the Gold Medal.

[Click here](#)



# Upcoming Events



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

## **DECEMBER REUNION UPDATE**



**IT'S ON!!** Over 130 registrations have been received which give us the base attendance to move forward!

When we sent out the *ARE YOU IN?* email, we received more than 250 positive responses, which gave us the confidence to create a more elaborate celebration based on the event revenue.

*We feel certain* that we will exceed 150 guests, but at this time, with contract commitments looming, we are obligated to make **ONE** modification: The Theater for the Opening Reception. With only 150 attendees, the revenue does not support rental of The Theater or the planned live entertainment, which costs \$8,000.

If, by March 1st we have 200 + registered and paid, we will try to move the Opening Night Cocktail Reception back to The Theater with the upgraded live entertainment, should The Theater still be available.

So, what **WILL** the Opening Night Reception and the Final Night Dinner look like?

**OPENING RECEPTION:** We will gather in the Napa Room, with Food Station Buffets, Two Drink Tickets per person, background entertainment, highboys and rounds to provide ample seating.

**GALA DINNER:** We will gather in the Grand Ballroom for a Deluxe Buffett Dinner, Two Drink Tickets per person, Dessert Station, DJ Entertainment, Dance Floor, and tables of ten, linens and centerpieces.

Those of you that have registered, but not paid as yet, please send you registration fee in ASAP.

**REMEMBER!** 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.

The price per person to attend the three-day event is \$345.00 per person and \$195.00 per person to attend a single event.

**[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](mailto: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

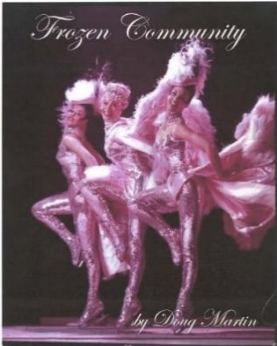
**[ICE CAPADES 2022 REUNION.mp4](#)**

<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.

It was 1964 when the show went to Hawaii and Australia. **Doug Martin** recollects the trip down under and for those of you who went, should bring back memories of that very special visit.

Read on - I mentioned earlier that we went to Australia to introduce our show to the people of that country, known around the world, of course, as "Down Under." I quickly learned a lesson about Australian culture. Never say to an Aussie, "You have a British accent." They don't take kindly to it. Both my sound similar to the unpracticed ear, but there's a distinct difference between them. I also think their distain of the comparison goes back to their early colonial history, when they were primarily a British penal colony.

Anyway, we had another great place to play before heading to Australia – America's great 50<sup>th</sup> state, Hawaii. The year was 1964, and it was the first time Ice Capades, or any other ice show, had performed in that tropical paradise. We stayed at a newly completed hotel in Waikiki, called the Ilikai. We were only a short distance from the island's largest shopping center, the Ala Moana Center, and just as close to the awesome beaches of Waikiki. We were thrilled to be there, even though it meant giving up part of our regular vacation time. The show had picked up these extra two places to play in the latter part of the tour, but what an opportunity for everyone involved.

Hawaiian people loved the show and the arena we played in. The Neal Blaisdell Arena held nearly 10,000 people, and we were full every performance. We also got to go to a fantastic native show on the other side of the island, at the Polynesian Culture Center. It was a beautiful show, well-paced, and a great representation of the Polynesian culture.

The week went by quickly, and before we knew it we were packing for the long trip to Australia. We finally met the gentleman who was booking our show there. His name was Art Kim and he was thoroughly familiar with Australia, as he also booked the Harlem Globetrotters there for years.

We made our way to the airport in Hawaii. A large crowd was there to send us off, and we all received beautiful leis. As we headed out to the planes we couldn't help notice that it was not only a Canadian Pacific Airplane, but was also a prop jet. By the time we all boarded, that plane was loaded, and I mean loaded. I sat in an aisle seat next to Baird Jones, a piano player from Oklahoma. We had roomed together in a number of towns. Baird was deathly afraid of flying, and wasn't too happy to learn that it would take more than eight hours' flying time to reach our destination, which was Sydney, Australia. We would make one stop in Auckland, New Zealand, to refuel before heading on to Australia.

Baird started drinking even before he got on the plane. Before long, he'd had more than his share and I knew he was about ready to pass out. He did just that ten minutes after takeoff. His head landed on my shoulder and stayed there the entire trip. When we got to New Zealand, I was able to shift him, and I got off the plane to stretch my legs while they refueled.

I got a laugh when I went to a refreshment stand to get a drink. The lady working there looked at me and said, 'you're from America, aren't you?' I said, "Yes, how did you know?" She said, "By our clothes. Americans always wear bright clothing." I said, "Okay, if you say so." I returned to the plane and we were on our way again. When we finally put down in Sydney, we were all relieved that we had arrived safely. Baird woke up as we landed, looked at me and said, "Well that didn't take long." I wanted to smack him, but he was in his sixties, so that wouldn't have been right. I just smiled and let it go at that.

We breathed a sigh of relief when we finally deplaned. It was so good to get off that undersized, over-packed airliner. The crew was very polite and efficient, but even that didn't soothe that cramped feeling shared by everyone on board – with the exception of Baird Jones, of course.

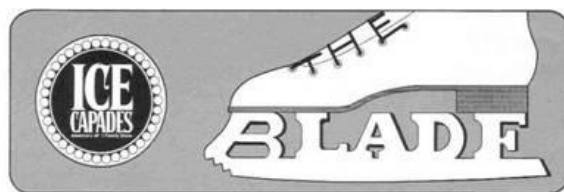
A couple of our Chorus girls were told to be ready to do an interview with the gaggle of reporters who were there, and to model a couple of their costumes, posing on ice blocks that had been brought to the airport. They stayed behind to do their PR work, while the rest of us headed for the hotel. A large number of the cast went straight to the hotel bar, where they could get beer for 25 cents a glass.

When the girls who'd been left behind to do the interview finally got to the hotel and saw what was going on, they were ticked off. We couldn't tell that from anything they said, but there was no doubt they were not happy. But it didn't take long to calm them down and get a smile from them after someone bought them a couple of drinks.

The next day, a number of us went out to have a good look at Sydney, a very large city right on the ocean. The scenery was very impressive, but as we drove along what is called Bondi Beach and observed the huge waves coming on shore, we couldn't help wonder why there weren't a lot of surfers out there. The fellow showing us around told us in a word: Sharks. Bondi Beach is famous for its large shark population just off shore. Our guide told us that the various types of sharks in the waters surrounding Australia are very aggressive, and that people who are not extremely well trained in swimming in heavily shark-populated waters, had best stay on the shore. He didn't have to tell me twice.

We learned to respect the assorted types of fish, alligators and other marine life while we traveled the country doing shows in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. We had to get used to a few major differences while we were there, such as the fact that June, July and August are winter months in the Southern Hemisphere; and that Australians drive on the opposite side of the road than we do in America. Just a note: When you leave Australia, say on a Sunday, you'll arrive in the USA on Saturday, because of crossing the Equator.

We had a very successful run in the three Australian cities we performed in. The Australian audience was very lively and gave generous ovations to all the performers—Principals and Chorus members alike. We learned a lot concerning different cultural values, and reasons why Australians do different things differently than we do here in the US.



The website, [www.icecapadestheblade.com](http://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



**JOIN THE U.S.  
FIGURE  
SKATING  
ALUMNI  
NETWORK**

As a follow up to the year long Centennial Celebration, U.S. Figure Skating is initiating a new nationwide alumni program designed to bring U.S. Figure Skating alumni together in a fun and meaningful way.

Article | Announcement | Monday, January 24, 2022



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<sup>®</sup>

presents

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

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