

Sad News

Barbara “Kregling” Schellhammer – Feb. 20, 2023



June 24, 1927 - February 20, 2023 Arlington, TX - Barbara "Bobbye" Schellhammer, 95, Arlington icon, community volunteer, ice skater, skier, artist, passed February 20, 2023, in her apartment at Town Village Crossing in Arlington, TX, after a brief illness. Survivors include her brother Gene Kregling, her six children: Mark Schellhammer, Scott Schellhammer, Brent Schellhammer, Gregg Schellhammer, Jeff Schellhammer, and Kim Lytle; nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

She was born Barbara Leonora Kregling on June 24, 1927, in Stratford, Connecticut. After graduation from Stratford High School in 1945, she trained for ice-skating in Lake Placid, NY, then toured the U.S. for two years as a skater with the **Ice Capades**. She met and married August Schellhammer, Jr., an aeronautical engineer, while working at Chance Vought. In 1949 they moved to Arlington, TX as part of the company move to Grand Prairie, TX. She spent the majority of her earlier life raising six children and supporting her husband's career. She served with Cub Scouts, as a den mother, YMCA, several PTA's, Rolling Hills CC and Shady Valley CC, Arlington Memorial Hospital Women's Auxiliary, LTV Engineers Wives Club, and Arlington Women's Club. She spent several years mastering the art of painting producing wonderful oils and watercolors. In 1970 she returned to ice-skating as director of the ice-skating school at the Ice Capades Chalet that opened at the Forum 303 mall in Grand Prairie. Her passion for skating continued in 1977 when she started and directed the Tandy Center Ice Skating School in Ft. Worth, retiring in 1991. She also taught private lessons at Plaza of the Americas and Galleria Malls in Dallas, and the Parks Mall in Arlington, teaching and loving every student who stepped on the ice, no matter their age. She volunteered at the Arlington Arts League and Theater Arlington, and was a Prime Stepper at Miss Persis Dance Studio. She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Arlington. She enjoyed taking many trips to Colorado and New Mexico to ski. Her outgoing personality and ability to converse with anyone made her an instant friend to all.

Alan Mathews – March 12, 2023



Alan Wayne Mathews, 64, of Elizabeth, PA was born January 17, 1959 in Duquesne, PA. He was the beloved son to the late Lloyd T. Mathews and Betty Morris. Alan graduated from Elizabeth Forward High School, Class of 76, and went on to study at Penn State University, Carnegie Mellon University, and University of Hawaii, Hilo. He was the oldest of three siblings. In his youth, Alan was an amateur figure skater alongside his sister Ellen. They competed along the East coast as members of the United States Figure Skating Association. After graduation, Alan turned professional and auditioned for the **Ice Capades**. He toured the United States and Canada for several years, and worked his way up to become lighting designer.

Alan spent many years living in Hilo, HI, where he pursued an active lifestyle that included scuba diving and spearfishing. He returned to Elizabeth and reconnected with his skating colleagues while working at several ice rinks in the area. Alan also assisted his mother and aunt in their activities with the Pittsburgh Council of Three Rivers Indian Center. Alan was a contract security guard at the West Mifflin location of Bombardier Transportation Holdings. Alan departed this life on March 12, 2023 at Jefferson Hospital in Jefferson Hills, PA. He was preceded in death by his father, Lloyd Thurman Mathews, mother, Betty Frances Morris, and sister, Ellen LaRue Mathews. Alan is survived by his sister, Elaine Cappiello, brother in-law Raymond, and his beloved nephews, Armond and Jude, all of Madison, CT.

[Click here for funeral link](#)

Alumni in the News



Tommy Litz was presented with World Figure Sport's Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2022 World Figure & Fancy Skating Championships on black ice.

Thank you for all your contributions to Skating and to WFS since 2015! ❤️ WorldFigureSport.org

Memorial Service for Cathy Machado



Letting the Skating community know that there will be a Memorial held for Chado, at Pickwick Ice Arena in Burbank, CA, on **Monday, April 24 from 1pm - 2:30pm**. Chado's son, Jeff is looking forward to seeing and meeting many of the people who were part of Chado's life as a competitor and Olympian, to show diva, to skating coach and mentor.

We know that Monday at 1pm might be a difficult time for some, but if you are able to attend this Memorial and Celebration of Chado's life, please send an e-mail to ChadosRSVP@gmail.com

[Remembering Cathy Machado](#)

New Reunion News

Ice Capades 2025 Reunion Cruise Announcement

'Escapades 2025 Cruise.... We'll have a good time! 🎵🎵🎵'



Janina "J" D'Abate posted this update on an upcoming cruise in 2025.

Please be patient as she is still working on pricing but as soon as she does, she will get the information out to us.

Please click below to join the Escapades 2025 Cruise – events page and get all updates relating to the cruise.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/ice-capades-escapades-cruise-a/746073810575573/>

The cruise will leave Friday afternoon and return early Monday morning, so to make sure no one "misses the boat", I'm going to offer a cocktail party with a jazz group the Thursday night

before at a nearby hotel. Fort Lauderdale airport is VERY close to the port and will be close to the hotel that I decide upon. I believe we'll be able to board around noon time on the Friday.

Stay tuned. More exciting news to follow.

Pictures of the Month

Irmgard's Reception on Feb. 28th at SouthPoint Ballroom who passed away Dec. 24,2022



Terri Reuter Halliday, Gerty Desjardins Verbiwski, Dorrit Cherkas
&

Henni Sonnleitner Hauzer Colberg

John Nicks came to [Ice Dance International](#) Los Angeles. Tai and I hosted the event. They all wanted pictures of him. You should have seen the flashes going off. Great day!



Upcoming Events



Anita & myself are down in Mexico this month promoting (2) new ice rinks - We do some exhibitions and work with the local skaters. Then off to Germany to install our company (Glacier Ice Shows) new Show "Rock On Ice 2023" at Phantasieland Theme Park. Show opens April 1, 2023 and runs through October 31, 2023 (see attached)

Link to show trailer for show opening April 1 in Bruhl, Germany at Phantasieland:

https://www.tiktok.com/@phantasieland_official/video/7113860474940247302

Link to Phantasieland - Rock On Ice

<https://www.phantasieland.de/en/theme-park/fascinating-shows/rock-on-ice/>

Frank Sweiding <fsweiding@gmail.com>



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

APRIL REUNION UPDATE

Hello and **HAPPY April!**

Just a reminder for those that have been undecided about whether to attend or not you have a few more days to get your Registrations in by April 1st. Hotel reservations can be made up until April 9th at the special reunion price. Thanks to all of you who reached out and reserved tables, you're all set!

Please note that **Regular Registration** is open through April 1st, 2023, with room rate shown below guaranteed **through April 1st**.

Reminder, if by March 1st we have 200 + registered and paid, we will move the Opening Night Cocktail Reception back to *The Theater* with the upgraded live entertainment, should the *The Theater* remain 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 your 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, and we'll put you on the newsletter distribution list.

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

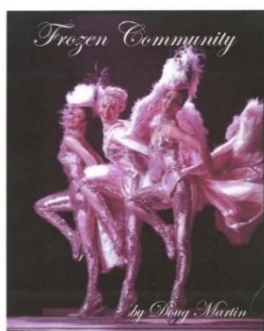
[Click here for details & updates](#)

ICE CAPADES REUNION RECAP



[Click here for Reunion 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.

John Bate came up with a few stories of his own. Read on.

Russia was quite the experience – remember, this was the time of the Cold War – with all the pre-trip lectures on protocol, what to do and what not to do. John Harris gave us all bright red blazers for the trip. While in New York, five of us; George Verbewski (who went by the stage name of George Bussey), Bill Rudolph, Mickey Squires, Bob Nordlund and myself, bought nice black bowler hats to go with our outfits. They were very impressive. In fact, I still have mine.

I was Chairman of the Employees Committees, a committee formed before we went to Russia. Its purpose was to give the line skaters a voice to air any problems or grievances between themselves and management. It worked very well because everyone was afraid of John H. Harris. We bought a lot of supplies: Coca Cola, gum, chocolate bars, soap, nylon stockings, all of which were either very scarce or not available in Russia. As I recall, John Harris drank most of the Cola.

One problem when we got to Russia was the new line skaters didn't get much money and didn't have any spending cash. Marilyn Braun (now Bate) and I met with John Harris to discuss the problem. He assured us it would be looked into immediately., Bob Nordfund had a sign made up, which read "Ice Capades on Strike" and sat in the hallway in the arena. Needless to say,

Dick Palmer, who was Vice President of Ice Capades, wasn't at all impressed, even though it was a joke.

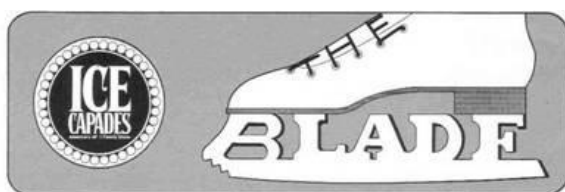
One night while playing at the US Embassy, I was walking home, clowning around on one of the bridges over the Moscow River. All of a sudden a soldier with a gun and a very large voice started yelling at me to come down from the top of the bridge. When I saw the gun I got the message. I was reprimanded, of course, and Jack Balmer informed me the next day that the US Embassy was off limits for me.

The big thing in Russia was that everyone in the show was out souvenir hunting for icons. They traded gum, nylons, jeans or anything American for icons. The Russians also had our Zamboni for a few days. Rumor was that they 'borrowed' it in order to make one of their own. I believe it.

The Empress Hotel in Vancouver, BC had a quarter of the musicians playing music in the lobby at Tea Time. One of the tunes they played was 'Sugar Plum Fairy' from The Nut Cracker. To add some excitement to Tea Time, I bought a pogo stick and came around the corner of the lobby, bouncing merrily on my way. You should have seen the looks. Funnier yet, was when I went upstairs and started jumping in one of the rooms. Can you imagine Aja Zanova on a pogo stick? During the fun, the desk clerk phoned the room and said 'Whatever you're doing is knocking the plaster off the ceiling in the room below you!' That room happened to be occupied by Walter Hadlick, who was the manager of Ice Capades at the time! We all had a lot of laughs about that one.

These are a few of the fun-filled times we had. There are dozens of stories I could tell, like hiding the weigh in scales, and adding vodka to the water cooler at the Race Track tank date in Phoenix. We were all so fortunate to have worked with Ice Capades and to have had so much fun doing it. We did three shows a day, for several days, then we'd move on to the next city and start all over again. It was all part of the experience. There were days you could leave your hotel door wide open and ask any passing cast member to come in and join you for a nightcap, or just say hello. Our Ice Capades memories will live on in our hearts forever. What a special time it was.

Let's keep Doug's legacy going. I'm sure there are more 'interesting' stories out there from your time in the show. If you would like to share, please send them to me.



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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