

Sad News

Joseph Richard Bloom – November 24, 2023



Joseph Richard Bloom passed peacefully from this world into the loving arms of his Creator on November 24th, 2023 at the age of 95. Born in San Francisco and raised in the Depression era, Joe was energetic and driven to accomplish things that, at first, seem impossible. Whether it was converting a summer job at an ice rink into a barrel-jumping career in the **Ice Capades**, or going from a Fuller Brush salesman as a 20 year-old war vet to the vice president of an international company (GEM) in his early 30's, he always immersed himself in the task with alacrity and proficiency. Much of his business career was spent in the automobile

industry: owning dealerships of Mazda, BMW, Chevrolet, Mitsubishi and partnering with the Auffenberg family with an extended car warranty company. Prior to this he was involved in many entrepreneurial endeavors including Pump-n-Polish car washes, a Ramada Inn, Popeyes Fried Chicken as well as a bank start up eventually absorbed by US Bank.

Fishing and hunting were his great passions, and he was mostly self-taught in these endeavors. Though an active man in business with many hobbies, nothing gave him more joy than his family. Special times with Marcella, his soulmate for 75 years, and "his girls" Kathy, Pat and Nancy, were always paramount for him. He organized legendary family trips including a safari in Africa, a barge trip in France, an Alaskan cruise and fishing trips to Canada for his children and grandchildren.

Many memories flood the family's collective consciousness at this time, but few would surpass his proudly wearing evidence of a wonderful pasta meal on his shirt and tie after a birthday dinner at his favorite Italian restaurant - - his face full of contentment.

He is survived by his wife Marcella, daughters Kathy Durel (Justin), Pat Steiner (Jim), Nancy Bloom Smith (Peter), and sisters Phyllis Alas and Linda Matthews. In addition, he leaves 10 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Preceded in death by his parents and sister, Josephine Priolo.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/joseph-bloom-obituary?id=53676391>

Bob Gallagher – Dec. 14, 2023

From daughter Colby Gallagher



It is with a heavy heart that I share that my father, Bob Gallagher Jr has passed away. Though he has been declining over the past 6 months or so I didn't expect to be writing this little tribute quite so soon or from my postpartum hospital bed, however life is full of surprises. Being the youngest child, dad and I were not

the closest in my earlier years but we had become very close over the past decade while I have been his primary caretaker. I often chronicled our adventures on fb so I could share updates about him with some of his old friends and family members- he always loved when I'd read him the plethora of selfie comments we'd get from friends and family all over the country.

In addition to being glad we were able to become closer in his later years, I am grateful that many of my close friends were so quick to adopt Bob. Aside from the Covid years, dad always had a great turnout for his birthday parties and we always spent holidays surrounded by my friends. Dad was always paid a little extra attention to make sure he felt valued and welcomed. I am also grateful that dad got to see me "settled down" with my spouse Owen and that he got to see me start my family. His face would always light up when he spent time with Éamonn 😊. He was excited about meeting my daughter though ultimately, they were ships passing in the night.

As I mentioned dad has been declining a bit over the past 6 months and has been in long term care for almost two years. He recently came down with Covid and rapidly developed a pneumonia. Dad ended up being admitted to the same intensive care unit that I worked on for many years. I was lucky to have the opportunity to see him and say my goodbyes on my way to my c-section. Even though I have been gone from there the past 5 + years there were still many friendly faces there on dad's last day. He was ultimately cared for by a great friend and nurse that I worked elbow to elbow with for over ten years. She cared and advocated for him as she would have her own father and I take great comfort in that - I am especially grateful that, though I could not be there with him in his last moments, she made sure he was comfortable and never alone.

Our Alumni in the News

True-Life Serial Killer Thriller 'He Went That Way' Starring Jacob Elordi, Zachary Quinto & Patrick J. Adams

Acquired By Vertical - Update

As previously announced, the movie, “He Went That Way” which had our very own Dave Pitts & Spanky involved in the story line is about to be released.

Here is the trailer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCHH-Ey10HU>

A couple articles being published before it hits the theatres.

An interesting review - <https://www.queerty.com/watch-jacob-elordi-zachary-quinto-take-a-tension-filled-trip-in-this-strange-but-true-crime-tale-20231215>

A little background on who portrayed Spanky -

<https://www.usmagazine.com/entertainment/news/jacob-elordis-he-went-that-way-movie-everything-to-know-so-far/>

Alumni checking in



I just wished to share with you that I, Tokiko am back to where I used to live. I live very close to the Ice Galaxy Skating arena in Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario, Canada CA where I used to teach skating to the Scarborough skating club members there in the year 1968-2000.

I luckily still have my pair of skates. I peeped in to the ice rink and saw the ice rink almost exactly same as the ice rink I used remember. There were many adult skaters in different ages and abilities are on the iceI put my skates on— I felt very strange, I was very cautious, way too cautious—Could you imagine if I ever fall over — that would be the end of me!

I decided to ask one of the skaters, a nice younger skater with hockey skates on—to give me his arm —so that I could get on to the ice. He and everyone else thought “I was a very beginner skater at my old age. They kindly tried to give me instructions “how to skate “.... People were very surprised to see me “learn to skate so fast— They were so impressed that their instructions worked!! I made many skating friends!

I always needed someone to help me get on the ice! I just had my 83rd. BD on the Halloween 🎃 day ...! Never too late to make skating friends!

Wish you all a “Happy Day “!!
Tokiko Yoshihara-Lepik

Video of the Month

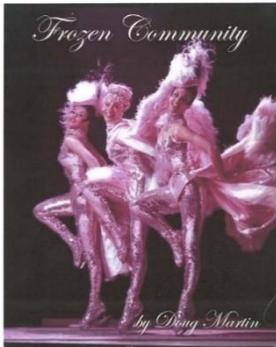
Let’s finish off 2023 with a laugh, courtesy of Scott Hamilton’s version of his 12 days of Christmas. This never gets old.



[1992 Fantasy Christmas on Ice](#)

Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night!

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. **Doug** had his own special experience about when the Supremes were guesting for our television show. Read on –

One of the other annual events was to perform a television special called Highlights of Ice Capades for a major network. The television special included some very interesting guests over the years. The one I remember the most was the show we did out of Rochester, NY, which starred Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Durante and The Supremes. I had an interesting personal experience that I haven’t forgotten to this day. We had a circular stage set up in the middle of the ice and the Supremes were going to perform right after Freddie Trenkler and I had finished our routine, with was a comedy number we performed together in the show. But at the last minute, the director of the show decided to do the comedy routine after the Supremes, because of the scenery that would have to be moved. All my fellow skaters either had their skates off or were in their dressing rooms, so I was asked to carry each of the Supremes to the state at center ice. I skated over to Diana Ross and picked her up, and couldn’t believe how light she was. I’ve carried suitcases heavier than Diana. I took her over to the state and sat her down. We had some light conversation,

then I went back to get Mary & Flo. Before I could say or do anything, Mary said ‘You really think you can carry Flo and me over to that stage? She and Flo were not small ladies, and they were busting up with laughter. I said, “I have an idea.” I put one on each arm and walked them to the stage. All three of the Supremes couldn’t stop laughing. I should tell you that I’d been doing the number with Freddie for nine months by this time and wasn’t shy any more about dealing with celebrities. I was also taking on one specialty numbers in the show.

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.

Do you remember how it used to be?

Backstage at the Ice Capades

By Arlene Van Breems

Year after year the Ice Capades moves from city to city. Tonight is official opening night in Los Angeles. The skaters will be on ice at the Sports Arena through May 17.

The 80 skaters have moved into hotels, apartments and sometimes their family homes for their stay – it is one of the longest runs they have.



Suitcases are as much a part of their life as the skates they wear. Everything, almost, that cannot walk is on wheels – props, office file cabinets, wardrobes and massive wig containers.

Not Glamorous

Backstage, the Ice Capades is not a very glamorous place. Faces, heavy with stage makeup, look tired. The icy atmosphere is warmed by cups of coffee and short, sometimes terry cloth bathrobes worn between costumes

Being close-up to the skater, makes their black and blue marks visible. It is easier to fall on the cement backstage than the ice out front. Rubber skate guards, rubberized mats and plywood boards keep them upright most of the time, but not always.

Robert Daily, wardrobe supervisor, sits at his sewing machine on wheels making last-minute adjustments on costumes.

Zipper break, and skaters sometimes need to be sewn into their costumes. Daily has two cupboards full of sewing necessities. "Drawers full of thread, hooks and eyes by the thousands and a big box of feathers – turkey, chicken, pheasant, you name it."

Wardrobe mistress Miss Lena DeCiantis has large safety pins fastened to the top of her apron. "The skaters' straps on their headpieces might be too long," she said.

Miss DeCiantis keeps one eye on the skaters and another on her staff of dressers, women hired in each city to help with the costumes.

"We must have 550 costumes in all, or is it 450. I'm not sure," said Miss DeCiantis. Each one is lined up according to the act in which it appears and also numbered for the skater who will wear it.

Headpieces affixed to wigs are numbered also. They are heavy, loaded with plastic flowers, feathered plumes, paste jewelry and sometimes bows.

The wig headpieces are the last part of the costume to go on the skater. Heavy and scratchy with almost strangling elastic fasteners, they are uncomfortable to wear.

Once ready, skaters line up in front of mirrors checking faces, wigs and smiles. One quick glance goes to check the seams of the net stockings

In the Wings

Then they line up in the wings. The featured performers, oftentimes in scantier costumes, pace back and forth and practice turns on the small strip of ice behind the curtain.

"Moving helps to keep warm" said Mitsuko Funakoshi, a featured performer who stars in two acts.

Los Angeles is her home town so her mother is backstage to visit before the show. This is her fifth year in the Ice Capades.

She enjoys the work and will continue for 'as long as it is profitable,' said Miss Funakoshi. But I would like to settle down and become a housewife 'a normal life sounds terrific to me now.'

Pictures from Past Reunions

[All Skater's Reunion – May 1-3, 2023 Las Vegas](#)

[Ice Capades 2022 Reunion pictures](#)

Reunion News

Ice Capades 2025 Reunion Cruise Announcement

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



Please click below to join the [Escapades 2025 Cruise – events page](#) and get all updates relating to the cruise.

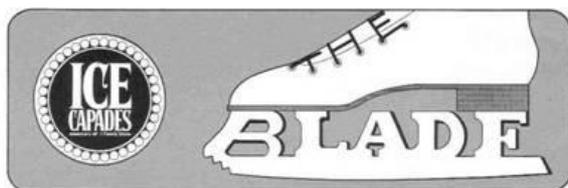
<https://facebook.com/events/s/ice-capades-escapades-cruise-a/746073810575573/>

THIS EVENT IS BEING CREATED AND COORDINATED BY Johnna "J" Bates...

NOTE: PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED!

[Click here for more Reunion information](#)

Questions: Contact 'J' directly - dabatej@bellsouth.net



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!

Upcoming Events



CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

Ice Theatre of New York, Inc[®]

presents

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

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