

REUNION EDITION

NEWS FROM ICE CAPADES ALUMNI

February 2026

Sad News

Leny (Rochester) Byron – December 2, 2025



I was notified by Leny's husband, Randall Byron about the loss of the love of his life, Leny (Rochester) Byron. His loss of his precious Leny has been crushing to him plus he has been going through some serious medical problems himself! Leny & I attended the **Ice Capades** reunion at the Flamingo. We were married Oct 29, 2012. She was registered as Helena Byron with me for the reunion.

Leny was a big part of **Ice Capades**, born 1937 in The Hague in Holland and joined Ice Capades with married name Rochester at the time, became a US citizen & lived in So California for years. She later helped manage Wollman Ice Rink in Central Park, NY Ice Capades Chalet & the ice rink in Pasadena. Leny retired after Pasadena. We moved from So. California to Sun City West, AZ in 2015 & later moved to 9818 W. Redwood Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351-3210 where I now live as a widower. Many of Leny's close friends were not physically able to travel for a memorial service so I have been working on the obituary to put on DVD & thumb drive. Both with many pictures I have of Leny's past performances in Ice Capades plus photos of her past friends & people she worked with as trainers & children she worked with. Leny was close friends with some top performers. I have let Richard Dwyer know & he has been Mr. Wonderful in his responses. Leny was a close friend to Scott Hamilton as I found out at the reunion. You can contact Randall directly at randybyron@gmail.com.

Byron submitted a beautiful loving obituary on Leny's exciting life.

[Click here for full read.](#)

Pieter Pyper – January 20, 2026



Note from Almut - It is with a broken heart and unimaginable sorrow to let all of you know that the love of my life, my husband of 47 years, my best friend, my hero, Pieter Pyper has left this world Tuesday January 20th.

After being diagnosed with a malignant tumor in his cheekbone that had already attacked his eye, a 14-hour surgery was necessary. He lost his eye but he was fighting to recover, when an evil infection invaded his wounds and made it impossible for them to heal. After many long discussions with the surgeon and doctors Pieter and I decided to go home into hospice care and treasure the time we had left.

Another emergency incident took us back to the hospital and then into the care of a Hospice House where he spent the last days of his life surrounded by wonderful, caring people.

I was at his side at all times but we lost the battle. I was holding his hand while he took his last breath.

I don't know how to exist without him.

Our Alumni in the News

Anita Hartshorn & Frank Sweiding are keeping busy



Gateway Playhouse with Nancy Kerrigan - Here is a link to the show:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Fk6G-QeMIW0>

Some upcoming events & Skating Camps

Anita & Frank coaching at Adult Skating camps

<https://www.edenicepistadehielo.com/skatingcamp>

Eden Ice - Querétaro, Mexico -- Feb. 26 - March 1, 2026

High Sierra Adult Skating Camp - Reno, NV in May, 2026

Sun Valley Adult Skating Camp - Sun Valley, ID in July 2026

AZ Adult Skating Camp, Peoria, AZ - in Sept. 2026

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

Anita & Frank's trip down memory lane

1995 TV Special - **1995 Champions on Ice**

(narrated by Peter Carruthers)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rje15gCRoMA>

Our company - Glacier Ice Shows



Celebrating our 30th year of doing ice shows at Phantasialand theme Park
This Year - "Rock On Ice - 2026" will run daily from March 28 - October 31, 2026

This last year the show was voted the # summer show in all of Germany
They are involved with ProSkaters, a non profit organization dedicated to helping skaters transition from competitive skating into show skating.

Here is a link to the website: <https://proskaters.org/>

The next ProSkaters event will be March 13 - 15, 2026
at the Knoxville Ice Chalet - Knoxville, TN

On the Road Memories



Continental '76. Sioux City/Little Rock. "Bus will go directly to plane". Ooops!! No injuries!

Liz Taylor - I remember it very well- I was sitting in the front seat of the bus and had to crawl on hands and knees on glass to the back door- I remember seeing the bus coming upon the wing of the plane and thinking we were going too fast to stop.

Patti Morton Bates - I see my partner Randy Coyne, David Fee and the other Randy Choura.

Heidi DeLio Thibert - I remember that day!

Kitty DeLio LaForte - I remember that!!! Very scary!!

Gisele Legault - I remember very well!

Andrea Wood - Also remember it well. Had a nice big

bruise on my left hip from being knocked off my seat and in to the one across.

Judy Grant Dellinger - I remember that! I was late to the bus and almost sat in the front seat.

We always loved to Party!



The Ford's – Atlantic City

Don Dailey - It is a good thing that we didn't all have cell phones back then. Just imagine all the incriminating photos and video that would be out there now!

J.P. Romano - When we were young! Hard to repeat the life we had. I still miss it.



Jimmy Kaufman made sure we had clean underwear! We made ourselves at home wherever we were.



Stonehaven – Springfield, Mass – Clifford was always watching over us.

Memories from the Ice Capades Reunion Pages

Georgia Bonatis McKee wrote - Awww—one of the Christmas gifts from one of my kids! Jim was Huckleberry Hound, Nancy was Scooby (right?) and Ronny weren't you Fred? I was a daisy and I do remember the butterflies but what in the world was the Glump?!



Ronny Pomeroy Stewart - Idk, yes I was Fred. 2nd year if being Fred, a boy subbed me when I was out. He told Dolly that Fred was too heavy for a girl, so he took over. Weirdly, it was significantly heavier than my Fred costume the year before. I liked being Fred, but the costume was too heavy. I became Hair or Hare(?) Bear after that. He was pretty boring though. In my heart, I was always Fred.

Ronny Pomeroy Stewart - you were a great Fred! My last year, I got the honor of being a sub for the kiddie number (instead of being in it every single day!). So one night I subbed for Joanie who was Boobie Bear. She was a few inches shorter, and her husband (a light operator) told me that about 3" of my bare (bear!) ankles showed! 😂😂😂

Jim Hurst - Yep, I was blue.....Huckleberry Hound. Gosh, I barely remember that.

Jim Hurst - you were an awesome Huckleberry Hound!

Georgia Bonatis McKee Thanks.....LOL...some of the kiddie numbers were a lot of fun.

Dody Baker DeMarchi - What year are you talking about Georgia? Obviously west but what year?

Videos of the Month

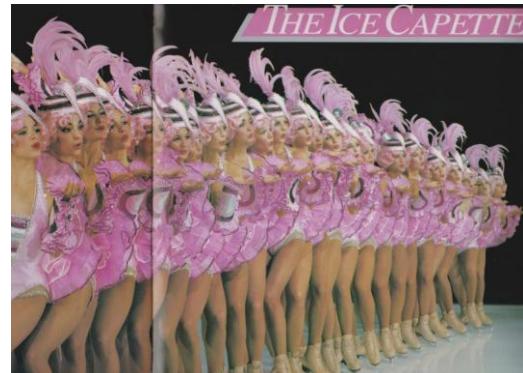
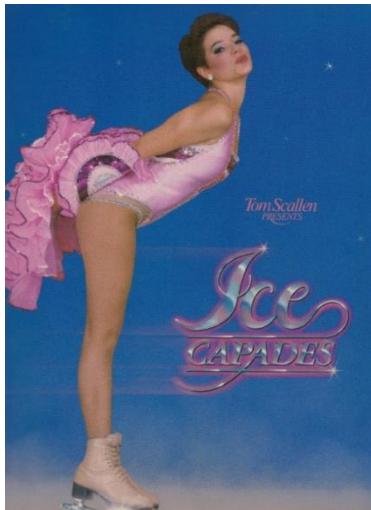
Vadim Shebeco. Ice Capades Special

"Inside the Ice Capades. A Skater's Dream" – w/Mario Lopez

https://youtu.be/9t6K9Dq_yMw

Ice Capades 1988 with Kirk Cameron

<https://youtu.be/cJBvpxa4w3g?si=Pgx daiHsb6SazJD->



Life on the Road, Skating with the ICE CAPADES – after 75th 2015 reunion



Entertainment reporter Tim Estiloz chats with WBZ's Jordan Rich about what it was like to be a performing skater in front of thousands with the world famous Ice Capades touring ice show - before returning to broadcasting. –

<https://youtu.be/e7mSa08slf4?si=K5dz0Bt-ObxzzSON>

Did you perform at one of the original six arenas?



What's there now?

Toronto – Maple Leaf Gardens – Mattamy Athletic Centre

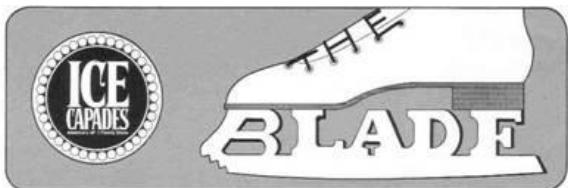
Montreal – The Forum – Cineplex Cinemas Forum

Chicago – Chicago Stadium - demolished

Detroit –Olympia Stadium - demolished

Boston – Boston Gardens – TD Garden

New York – Madison Square Garden – The Garden or “MSG”



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 **2025 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



Ice Theatre of New York, Inc ®
presents

[https://www.icetheatre.org/](http://www.icetheatre.org/)

Ticket and information at icetheatre.org/tickets

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