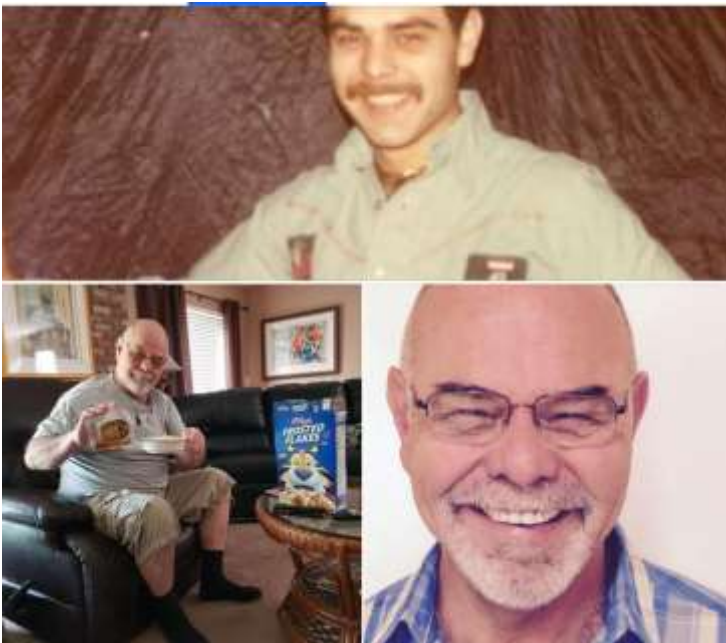




Sad News

Joel Miller – July 4, 2026



This is Joel's niece, Becky Hinton:

Our sweet Joel passed into eternity on Saturday July 4, 2026, with a heart full of love and a house full of doggies. If there is a rainbow bridge, he was surely greeted with joyous barks and howls from pets who have crosses over before him.

There will be no formal memorial, but his favorite pet rescue, Pawsitive Difference Pet Rescue, will be hosting a loving get-together on Sunday 7/12/26.

Joel will be cremated and will eventually be reunited with his beloved partner in life, Michael Sanford, in Hawaii.

Jack Ricks wrote about Joel's passing.

Last night I learned of the death of a close friend and former **Ice Capades Head of Wardrobe Joel Miller**. I know Joel has many friends within the IC community who will want to be informed.

His niece is here in Las Vegas taking care of things. We live close by and I am helping in whatever way I can.

Joel and I have been friends since I was 16 training at an ice rink in Texas where he was the manager who also skated. Later in LA I worked in his and Richard Romero's costume shop (all 3) and years after I hired him to work at Cirque du Soleil's Mystere where I was Head of Wardrobe. We had a very long and positive history together.

We were texting on Saturday morning and he was gone in the afternoon. So sad.

RIP Joel Miller, you were deeply loved by so many!

Bonnie Atwood – July 8, 2026



Bonnie Ray Atwood, a Richmond-based writer, lobbyist and human rights advocate, died Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at VCU Medical Center from complications of leukemia.

Ms. Atwood was born April 27, 1947, in Arlington, Virginia, the daughter of the late Virgil Ray Atwood and Delia Henderson Atwood.

She graduated from George Mason University and the T.C. Williams School of Law. She was a member of the Virginia Irish American Society, Quoit Club, Metropolitan Business

League, Parliamentary Law Club of Richmond and Thomas Jefferson High School Vikings Foundation. She attended Holy Comforter Episcopal Church.

Ms. Atwood was a strong advocate for civil rights in the 1960s and 1970s and long-time supporter of Thomas Jefferson High School. In the 1990s, she helped organize efforts to save the school when city officials sought to close it.

In 2007, Ms. Atwood successfully petitioned for the erection of a monument in Richmond commemorating Chief Black Hawk, a Native American who was held prisoner in the city after he protested the taking of native lands.

Ms. Atwood wrote articles for local newspapers and magazines for many years. In 2020, she published “My Journey Through Eldercare: The Search for Peace and Meaning,” an account of caring for her mother. In March, she published “Avalanche: When Everything Changed,” a novel based on her experience as a skater in the **Ice Capades**.

Ms. Atwood is survived by her son, Joseph Green, of Richmond.

Arrangements are being made for a memorial service in Richmond. Interment will be at the Atwood Cemetery in Luray, Virginia.

[Bonnie Ray Atwood](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Page Valley News](#) | [PVN Obits](#)

Kathie Markby-Hannah – April 16, 2026



Kathleen “Kathie” Markby Hannah, beloved daughter, sister, wife, step-mother, aunt, and friend, passed away on April 16, 2026. Born July 9, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois to Mary Catherine O’Neill Markby and John Richard Markby, Kathie was the oldest of five children and carried that role with strength, warmth, and a deep love for her family throughout her life. From an early age, Kathie’s remarkable talent and love for ice skating were evident to all who knew her. She attended Planert’s Ice Skating School in Glen Ellyn, IL and spent countless hours practicing at the outdoor ice rink at the YMCA in Elmhurst, IL, determined to perfect her craft.

After graduating from Immaculate Conception High School in 1959, her dream became her profession when she joined the renowned **Ice Capades** where she performed professionally across the country for five exciting years.

Her adventurous spirit and love of entertaining led her into a comedic skating act with a close colleague, a partnership that took them around the world. Together, they performed in Germany and South Africa, bringing

joy and laughter to audiences everywhere. Eventually, Kathie settled in Mill Valley, California where she built a beautiful life rooted in love, compassion, and community. There, she met and soon married the love of her life, Bill Hannah, and together they shared many happy years filled with laughter, friendship, and devotion.

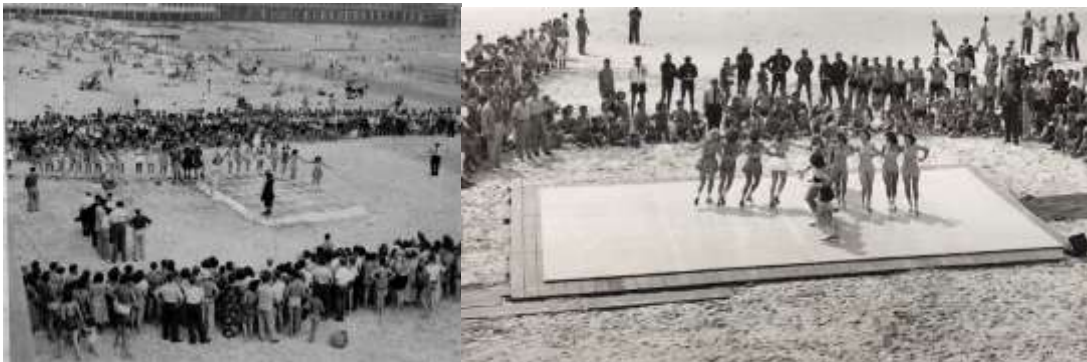
[Obituary information for Kathleen "Kathie" Markby-Hannah](#)

Memories

Strange Picture Calls using Blocks of Ice



Francine recollects this memory with Pepe & Janice in Australia. On this particular day they were traveling all night by train and were assigned a 7 am publicity call. They had to get off of a train in Australia and step up on this big block of ice in costume. Obviously, for them, this wasn't their favorite publicity call.



Early AC Picture calls on the beach in front of Convention Hall using blocks of ice.

Continental Company.....Montgomery Alabama 1976

Former Alabama Governor George Wallace and his daughter visit Ice Capades and meet the principals backstage.

Heidi DeLio; Jannat Thompson; Randy Coyne; Wes Foscolina; Chris Shedlowski;

Mike Course; Kitty DeLio; Perry Jewel;

Patty Morton; Don Watson; Julie Johnson; Sissy Moody; Don Knight.



FAN OF THE OLD - BOSTON GARDEN · Join
 Michael Doherty · 12h · 43
 Phil Esposito facing off.
 Dropping the puck is
 Karen Magnusson-a figure skater with the ice capades
 and relative of Keith Magnusson.

1970s



Thank you, Bob Recker for this memorable picture.

[Shelly Bingham Capron](#) By now, I had planned to be sharing news with you that the cookbook is finally completed and ready to ship out. Unfortunately, an illness relapse has ultimately forced me to postpone those plans slightly. However, I do want to assure you that the cookbook IS still in the works and I expect it to be out this fall.



The good news is that this allows for some additional time for people to contribute more recipes and memories to the book. I have extended the deadline for submissions to August 31st. I would love to have as many people as possible participate so we can make this book a very special tribute to the skaters, coaches, and families we lost on Flight 5342. Recipes (and remembrances) to honor others we have lost from the skating community are also welcome. Everyone who is connected to skating in any way is welcome to participate!

Please share the info with your skating friends and colleagues.

I do want to thank everyone who has been so supportive of the cookbook project so far. I think it will be a very special tribute to those we have lost - and a nice way for everyone to share their legacy while supporting future skaters.

Keep those recipes and memories coming!

Think Rink!!

Our Alumni in the News

A little History about Elaine Zayak



Six triple jumps changed figure skating forever—but they also forced the sport to rewrite its own rulebook. When Elaine Zayak conquered the 1982 World Championships, she didn't simply win a gold medal. She delivered a performance so unconventional, so relentlessly ambitious, that the International Skating Union eventually reshaped the sport around what she had done.

Long before judges, coaches, and rule-makers debated her jump layout, there was a little girl in Paramus, New Jersey, trying to find her balance after an accident that could have ended most athletic dreams before they ever began. At just two years old, Zayak lost three toes on her left foot in a lawn mower accident. Doctors suggested figure skating as therapy, hoping the ice would strengthen her balance and mobility. Few could have imagined that those careful first glides would one day lead to a World Championship.

Even skating boots had to be adapted. A wooden mold was fitted inside her left boot to compensate for the shape of her foot. Every practice session demanded adjustments other skaters never had to think about. Yet the obstacle that should have slowed her became the reason she developed

extraordinary determination. While others chased perfection, Zayak learned how to compete with a body that constantly required adaptation.

Her rise was startlingly fast.

As a teenager, she captured the 1979 World Junior title and immediately proved she belonged among the world's elite. Victories at Skate Canada and Prague Skate followed, and she quickly became one of the brightest young stars in American figure skating. Even during the early stages of her senior career, there was something unmistakably different about the way she attacked programs. She wasn't interested in merely surviving difficult jumps. She wanted to stack them together in ways few women had ever attempted.

That aggressive mindset reached its peak in Copenhagen at the 1982 World Championships.

Women's skating at the time still leaned heavily toward elegance, compulsory figures, and careful technical planning. Zayak arrived with a different philosophy. She filled her free skate with six triple jumps, including four triple toe loops, creating a level of technical difficulty rarely seen in women's competition.

Every successful landing increased the pressure inside the arena.

The crowd realized they were witnessing something unusual. Rivals understood it too. This wasn't simply about artistry anymore. Technical firepower had arrived, and it wore an American costume.

When the final scores confirmed Elaine Zayak as World Champion, the victory represented more than a personal breakthrough. It marked the arrival of a new era where athletic difficulty would become an increasingly powerful weapon in women's skating.

Ironically, her greatest competitive strength also sparked controversy.

Because four of her triples were the same jump, officials questioned whether programs should reward repeated execution of identical elements. Their response became one of the sport's most famous technical regulations: the unofficially named "Zayak Rule." Introduced after the 1982 ISU Congress, it limited how many times skaters could repeat the same triple jump while requiring greater variety to earn full value.

Very few athletes can say their performances literally changed the rulebook.

Zayak can.

But sporting revolutions rarely guarantee smooth careers afterward.

The qualities that made her brilliant in free skating often couldn't overcome her struggles in compulsory figures, which still carried enormous weight during that era. Years later, many observers connected those difficulties to the physical limitations created by her childhood injury. Whatever the reason, the scoring system punished weaknesses as harshly as it rewarded strengths.

The decline came quickly.

At the 1983 World Championships, frustration boiled over. Sitting in 11th place during the compulsory figures segment, battling an injured ankle and equipment problems, Zayak withdrew before completing the final tracing and returned home to the United States. It was an emotional setback for an athlete who had stood on top of the world only a year earlier.

She wasn't finished.

The following season, she earned bronze at the U.S. Championships, finished sixth at the 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, and closed her amateur career with another major podium by winning bronze at the 1984 World Championships. Soon afterward, she turned professional, bringing her explosive style to audiences with **Ice Capades** for two years.

Many champions would have left the competitive chapter there.

Not Zayak.

Nearly a decade later, in 1993, she attempted something almost nobody expected. She reinstated as an eligible skater, becoming the only American female singles skater to pursue a comeback for the 1994 Olympic team. Even more remarkable, she once again trained triple jumps she hadn't performed competitively in roughly ten years.

The comeback fell short of an Olympic berth. She finished fourth at the U.S. Championships and became an Olympic alternate. Still, returning to that level after years away from elite competition spoke volumes about the resilience that had defined her life from childhood.

Recognition eventually caught up with her influence. Induction into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame and later the New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame celebrated not only the medals but also the legacy she left behind. Today, she continues shaping future generations as a coach in New Jersey, passing along lessons carved from decades of triumph, frustration, reinvention, and persistence.

Some champions leave behind trophies.

Elaine Zayak left behind something far rarer—a permanent imprint on the sport itself, proving that one fearless performance can echo long after the applause has faded and even long after the rules have changed.

Upcoming Events



This is going to be a really special weekend! Randy Gardner will be interviewing Nancy in person at the luncheon. There will be a silent auction with many fabulous items to bid on. A VIP reception in the evening and a half day on ice workshop led by Nancy on Sunday. Tickets are available for the luncheon, VIP reception, On Ice Workshop with Nancy. Plus, we have fabulous opportunities to sponsor and/or advertise at the event.



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Ticket and information at [icetheatre.org/tickets](https://www.icetheatre.org/tickets)



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!

If you know if someone who would like to receive The Blade, please send me their email address or if you would like to be removed from receiving The Blade, please type 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Email me directly at gspoden@rogers.com