

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

# BENEFIT GALA<sup>AND</sup> PERFORMANCE

HONORING US & WORLD CHAMPIONS

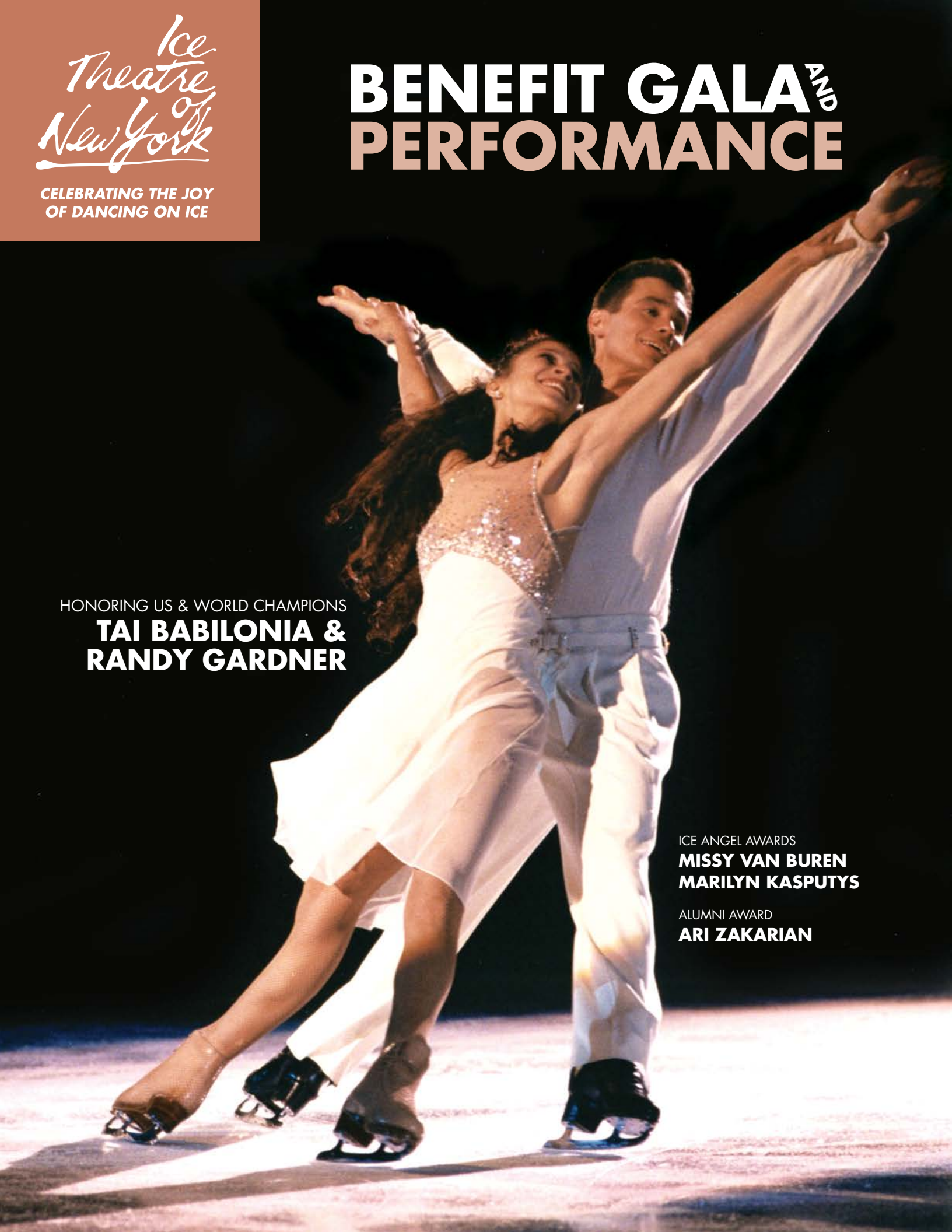
**TAI BABILONIA &  
RANDY GARDNER**

ICE ANGEL AWARDS

**MISSY VAN BUREN  
MARILYN KASPUTYS**

ALUMNI AWARD

**ARI ZAKARIAN**







**IN MEMORY OF WILL  
1982-2002**



CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

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## ABOUT THE COMPANY

ITNY's mission is to create and advance dance on ice as an ensemble performing art and to provide education and public performances to people of all ages. Founded by Moira North in 1984, Ice Theatre of New York created the first not-for-profit professional ice dance company in the U.S. and was the first to receive funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

- ITNY has created exclusive works by choreographers as varied as Edward Villela and Jody Sperling, modern dance choreographers Jacquelyn Buglisi, Elisa Monte and David Parsons, Performance Artist Ann Carlson and Emmy Award Winner Charles "Chucky" Klapow.
- ITNY trains company skaters and guest skating artists in its weekly Master Edge Classes at Chelsea Piers Sky Rink.
- We continue to collaborate with choreographers from both the dance and skating worlds, while exploring creatively exciting relationships with artists from theatre, music, and new media disciplines.
- ITNY is dedicated to making performances accessible to diverse audiences and presents many free performances featuring the current repertory throughout New York City.

ITNY also achieves its public arts and education mission by:

- commissioning new choreography, with pieces created by recognized and emerging dance and ice skating choreographers;
- offering free admission to more than a dozen public performances each year;
- holding free Master Edge Classes led by ITNY dancers for ice skating professionals and enthusiasts; and
- offering apprentice/training programs for aspiring ice dance artists; and facilitating educational programs on ice dancing and figure skating for school-aged children in Brooklyn, Queens and Upper Manhattan.

**62 Chelsea Piers, Suite 308, New York, NY 10011**  
**(212) 929-5811 • icetheatre.org**

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Betty Wasserman

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Cate Smit

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Nancy Kerrigan & Jerry Solomon	
Joe Kasputys	Paul Wylie

As of 9/25/17



**CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE**

## WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

I am so glad you are here celebrating with us and I thank you for all your support. With your continued help Ice Theatre of New York will not only maintain the important creative work that we have been doing, nurturing emerging artists and celebrating recognized artists, but also will significantly increase our exploration of what is possible with artistic dance movement on the ice.

I invite you to join us at our weekly Master Edge Classes at Sky Rink, our City Skate Concert Series at Rockefeller Center Rink, and our outreach program, New Works and Young Artists Series, in Brooklyn, Queens and Upper Manhattan, as well as our UNPLUGGED performance and party in the Spring, which will be a celebration of all skating.

Skating..."combines and surpasses the joys of flying and dancing: only in a certain type of a dream do we ever else attain a higher degree of the same ravishing experience of exultantly skimming the earth."

— Ernest Jones, Biographer of Freud

Join us as we glide gracefully and boldly into the next decade of choreography, collaborations and educational outreach programming!

Warmest Wishes,

*Maria North*





STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

October 30, 2017

Ice Theatre of New York  
62 Chelsea Piers, Suite 308  
New York, NY 10011

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the 2017 Benefit Gala and Performance of Ice Theatre of New York.

Since its inception in 1984, Ice Theatre has been dedicated to the development and advancement of figure skating as a performing art. Through community outreach, it enables New York City's public school children to get out on the ice, and is widely recognized for the "New Works and Young Artists Series," its innovative educational program that utilizes figure skating as an effective and empowering motivator and teaching tool.

Tonight, you pay tribute to distinguished individuals who advance ice skating as an artistic expression of athleticism and I am pleased to join in congratulating World and U.S. Champions, Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner. I commend, as well, Missy Vanburen and posthumously, Marilyn Kasputys, for their support of this worthy enterprise, and Ari Zakarian, recipient of the Second ITNY Alumni Award.

With warmest regards and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew M. Cuomo". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first name "Andrew" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

October 30, 2017

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to join Ice Theatre of New York in welcoming everyone to its 2017 Benefit Gala and Performance.

New York is known as a global hub of creativity, and our thriving performing arts scene is a great source of pride for the five boroughs. Established in 1984, Ice Theatre of New York supports the development of innovative works featuring contributions by professionals from the worlds of skating, theater, music, and choreography, and it offers emerging and established ice dancers the opportunity to hone their craft and perform in front of enthusiastic audiences. This terrific organization also engages New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds in shared appreciation of this graceful and athletic art form through its free classes for public school children and its performances at rinks across the city. Tonight's event is a wonderful opportunity not only to support ITNY's New Works and Young Artists Series, but also to applaud its dedicated staff and skaters for all they do to elevate the field of ice dancing, nurture the talent of our diverse residents, and enrich our city's vibrant cultural landscape.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, Chirlane and I extend congratulations to this year's honorees. Please accept our best wishes for a festive gala and continued success. Enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio  
Mayor



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THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS**

Dear Friends,

Welcome and congratulations to all the friends, supporters and honorees of Ice Theatre of New York in celebration of your 2017 Benefit Gala and Performance.

Ice Theatre of New York, which was founded over three decades ago, has allowed for the promotion of figure skating to countless aspiring performing artists in our city. The Ice Theatre of New York has also excelled in making this performing art accessible to future generations of skaters - including residents in our community - through education, outreach and training.

Tonight is also a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to your distinguished honorees including US and World Champions Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner, Missy Vanburen, Ari Zakarian and Marilyn Kasputys.

I hope all of those in attendance enjoy this evening's Benefit Gala and I wish you and everyone associated with Ice Theatre of New York continued success in your endeavors in bringing performing arts to our city.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine  
Council Member, 7th District



We are 3 years from 50 years of friendship.  
And that doesn't begin to represent how much I love you both!

*Scott Hamilton*

U.S. FIGURE SKATING  
CONGRATULATES

*Tai Babilonia*  
AND  
*Randy Gardner*

for being honored at the  
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK'S  
2017 Benefit Gala & Performance

 US FIGURE  
SKATING

1979 WORLD PAIRS CHAMPIONS



# TAI & RANDY: A PERFECT MATCH

By Edward Z. Epstein



"Everyone thought our partnership was over," recalls Tai.

It was 1975. Panic time. Tai was fifteen, Randy seventeen. It wasn't a question of talent, they had all the talent in the world. "But 'the puberty fairy' had dropped by," remembers Tai. "I was suddenly 'developing' physically, and Randy had stopped growing!"

Their skating reflected the changes. Up until then, everything had progressed beautifully. They'd won the National Junior Pairs title only two years earlier. But facts had to be faced, and perhaps the time had come for each to move on. Changing partners in the pair skating world wasn't uncommon.

"Randy certainly could have gone for another partner," observes Tai. Both were powerful individual skaters with promising futures as solo competitors. However, to quote a champion in another field: "Not so fast," as a young Frank Sinatra told a columnist who wrote, early on, that Frank's glory days were over.

Anyone who really knew Tai and Randy, and how they functioned, knew that if and when it was time for them to move on, they'd be doing it together. They'd formed an unbreakable bond, a brother-and-sister-like deep friendship destined not only to endure, but to see them through many crises, personal and professional, that they'd have to contend

with over the years. "We were committed to each other, we had the same goals," states Tai.

They'd grown up together, and had been skating since Tai was eight, Randy ten. "I was the shy one," Tai recalled. They were inspired by ice shows they saw. Aja Zanova's dazzling skating [the late Aja Zanova Steindler is a former ITNY honoree] made a strong impression. "I'd sit in the front row," recalls Randy, "watching the skating, and hear-



ing the sound of the blades – which is something that never comes through on television – I remember that vividly."

When he began skating with Tai, their coaches – first Mabel Fairbanks, who teamed them up, then John Nicks – explained how important it was "for you guys to be united. Don't let people split you up."

The "ideal" pair skating team was a male with an ultra-petite female, who was "easy" to lift and catch, to "throw" into jumps et al. Tai and Randy, however, were evenly matched physically, virtually the same height, not unlike their predecessors, U.S. champions [and former ITNY honorees] Jo Jo Starbuck and Ken Shelley ("a hard act to follow," as one critic noted). But their potential was unmistakable, and Babilonia and Gardner were working with Starbuck and Shelley's coach, John Nicks.

"Within a year – 1976 – our bodies had calmed down. Randy even grew an inch!" recalls Tai. It was possible then for skaters to compete both as individuals and in the pairs event, and Randy won a U.S. National Junior Men's title and competed in the Senior Men's singles in 1977. "But skating singles and pairs was too much," he says. "Don't forget, skating solo, at that time, there were also school figures, which were really tough, to worry about!" The decision was made: concentrate on

pairs.

The hard work intensified, and Gold medals were in sight. John Nicks had a goal in mind: "There hasn't been an American pair to win a world championship in thirty years."

Great talents in any field share an outstanding quality: the ability to make what they're doing appear effortless. "Whether it's a ballet dancer, a figure skater, a singer, a writer, whatever the field – the blood, sweat and tears that go into a performance, or a script, or a book, should be invisible," noted the great playwright and theatre director Moss Hart. "If the artist is truly gifted, only the result shines through."

In Tai and Randy's case, it did. There were problems, of course. A solo skater, out there alone on the ice, has only himself, or herself, to contend with. A different dynamic is in play when skating with a partner, or dancing with one; as Ginger Rogers once said, regarding Fred Astaire: "I did everything he did, only I did it backwards and in heels."

"In effect, it's a marriage," notes Randy, "with all the pitfalls. Sometimes you have to compromise your feelings, you have to edit yourself– what to say, what not to say – but the focus has to remain constant. You both have to stay on the same path; you have to get out of your own way. Accept. Respect. Patience. Passion."

"We were in it together," states Tai. "You're either in it one hundred-and-fifty percent, or you're not in it at all."

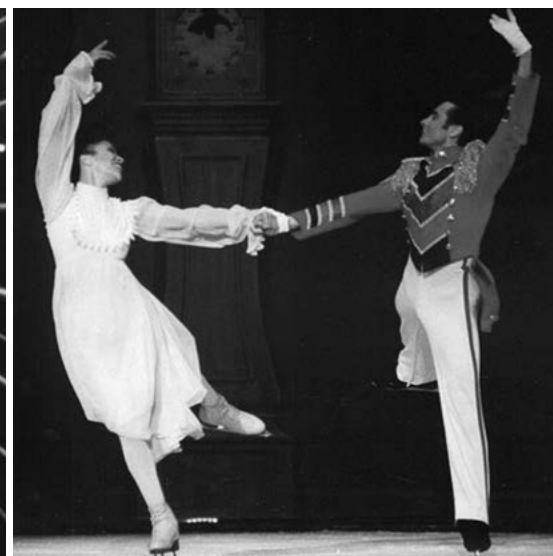
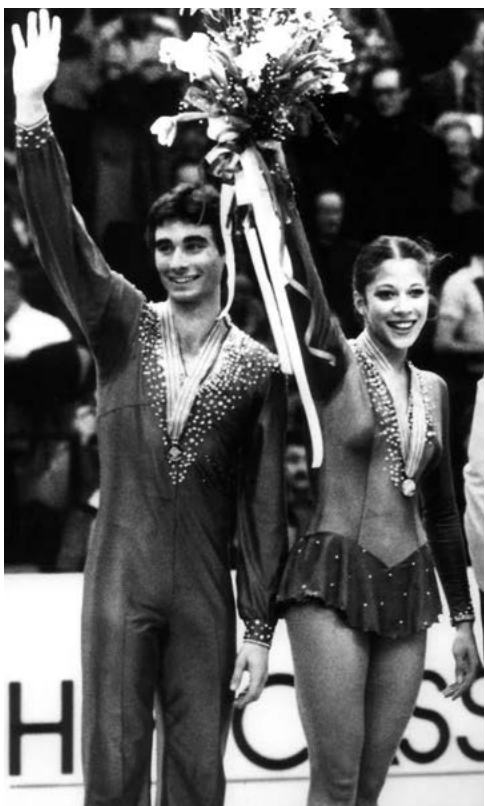
Babilonia and Gardner went on to win five consecutive U.S. National Senior Pair Championships, culminating with a World championship in 1979. Their program was a perfect blend of artistry and athleticism (it included a throw triple-salchow, a split double-flip, and a throw double-axel). They were the youngest pair ever to represent the USA, and, barring some unforeseen development, an Olympic victory the following year seemed inevitable.

The 1980 Winter Olympics took place in Lake Placid, the second time since 1932 that the Upstate New York village hosted the Games. Babilonia and Gardner seemed in great shape. What could possibly go wrong?

It wasn't that, while performing their program, they missed a lift or a throw jump or a side-by-side move that they'd done thousands of times, and suddenly concentration wavered; or that their timing was off, or one of them tripped or caught an edge in an unseen rut in the ice; or that at a key moment one had said the wrong thing to the other; it wasn't anything like that.







It was something over which neither Tai nor Randy nor John Nicks nor any other human being had any control; during practice, Randy had suffered a leg injury, and was given a shot for the pain. All knew it was serious. During warm-up, before the competition, a worst-case scenario became real: there was no way that Randy would be able to perform.

They had to withdraw from the competition. The world was watching. Confusion ensued, emotions ran rampant. To describe the scene, and subsequent events, as traumatic for all concerned would be insufficient – it was traumatic, all right, and beyond. There was disbelief. Anger. Rage. Why did it have to happen? What happens next? Nobody knew if Randy would ever be able to skate again.

Tai recalls vividly how “the incredible understanding and support we received from Dick Button and the whole ABC Wide World of Sports family – Jim McKay, Chris Schenkel – they were all so

important in helping us get through it...”

The grace and courage both skaters displayed “won the hearts of America,” as one observer said.

In retrospect, there were things to be grateful for: no one had died; the injury wasn’t life-threatening, and Randy would skate again. But the emotional cost was staggering, and Tai and Randy paid a heavy price: the shattering of a dream they’d shared since they were kids, and had worked so hard to achieve: Olympic Gold.

They would always have the satisfaction of being World and five-times U.S. Champions, an indisputably spectacular accomplishment. But the after effects of Lake Placid would reverberate in Babilonia and Gardner’s lives, in one way or another, right down to the present day.

They went on to enjoy a highly successful professional career. Away from the sheltering bubble of the “amateur” skating world, they faced entirely new

challenges. Aja Zanova summed it up: when she turned pro – she was a two-time world champion – she was shocked to learn that audiences responded most enthusiastically to showmanship, not technical expertise. “I wasn’t skating for judges anymore, where everything received grades! Skating professionally was a tough new experience.”

By the time Tai and Randy starred in *Ice Capades*, from 1980 through 1983, audiences were more sophisticated – they expected both technical expertise and showmanship, and Babilonia and Gardner didn’t disappoint them. “Our approach changed in good and not so good ways,” observes Randy. “But we were excited to be in a different environment, to be doing something new.”

“We rode it out together,” states Tai.

“They’ve been there for each other through thick and thin,” noted their friend Scott Hamilton.

But in their private lives there were

Congratulations Tai and Randy!

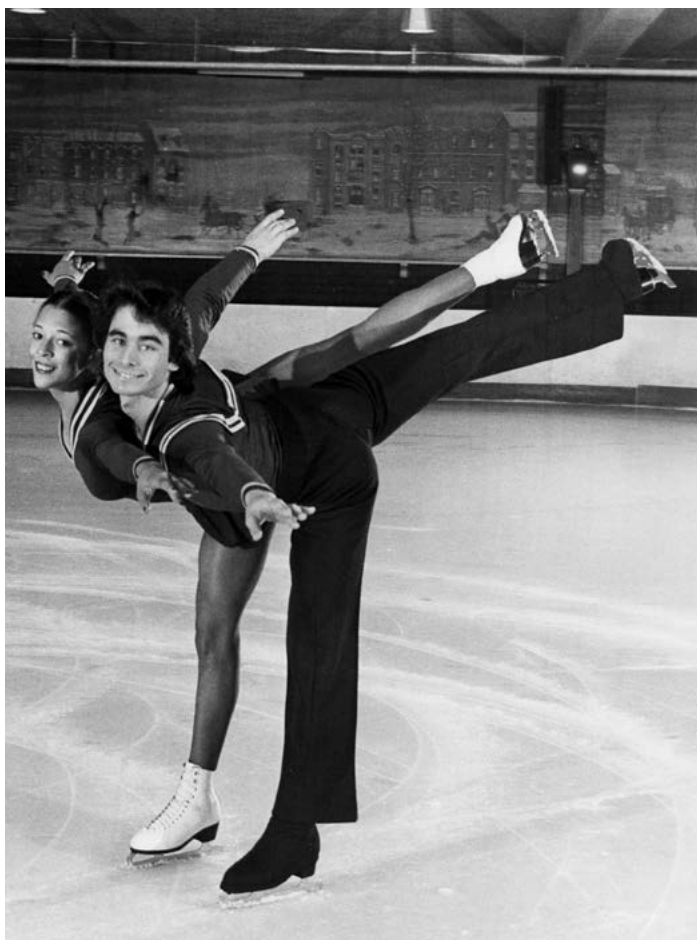
It's been a joy sharing the ice,  
memories and laughter with you over the years!

We love you!

JoJo and Ken







highly-charged emotional issues to deal with. “To the press and public we were in the same box: ‘Tai and Randy.’ But I had problems, for a few years, finding out who I was, and wondering if I could function without a partner,” relates Tai.

“People always thought we were a couple, but we weren’t,” Randy explains. “Mostly because I happen to be gay.”

Both faced their personal situations head-on, as they’d done with their skating. In 1990, Tai’s story was presented in a motion picture made for television, “On Thin Ice: The Tai Babilonia Story” (Randy did some of the choreography). In Tai’s story were echoes of troubles faced by Judy Garland and others; few are prepared to contend with the extreme stress and anxiety that accompany “making it big,” as Judy once observed.

But Tai is candid: “I have no more secrets,” she says today, and is relieved to “own my mistakes,” and to have successfully changed her life. She is celebrating her ninth year of sobriety: “It’s one of the best decisions I’ve ever made!”

Randy has written a play, “GO FIGURE: The Randy Gardner Story,” co-authored and directed by Joshua Ravetch, who directed Carrie Fisher’s “Wishful

Drinking.” The play is described as Live Autobiography, and in it Randy portrays himself. It had a successful run at the NoHo Arts Center in Los Angeles, and will be presented by the Delaware Theatre Company in Wilmington on January 18, 2018.

In the play Tai and their close friend, Dorothy Hamill [former ITNY honoree], join him on stage. According to Tai, “People who think they know our story are in for a few, shall we say, surprises!” Advertisements for the play have a tag line, “May not be suitable for children under twelve.”

Their saga continues.

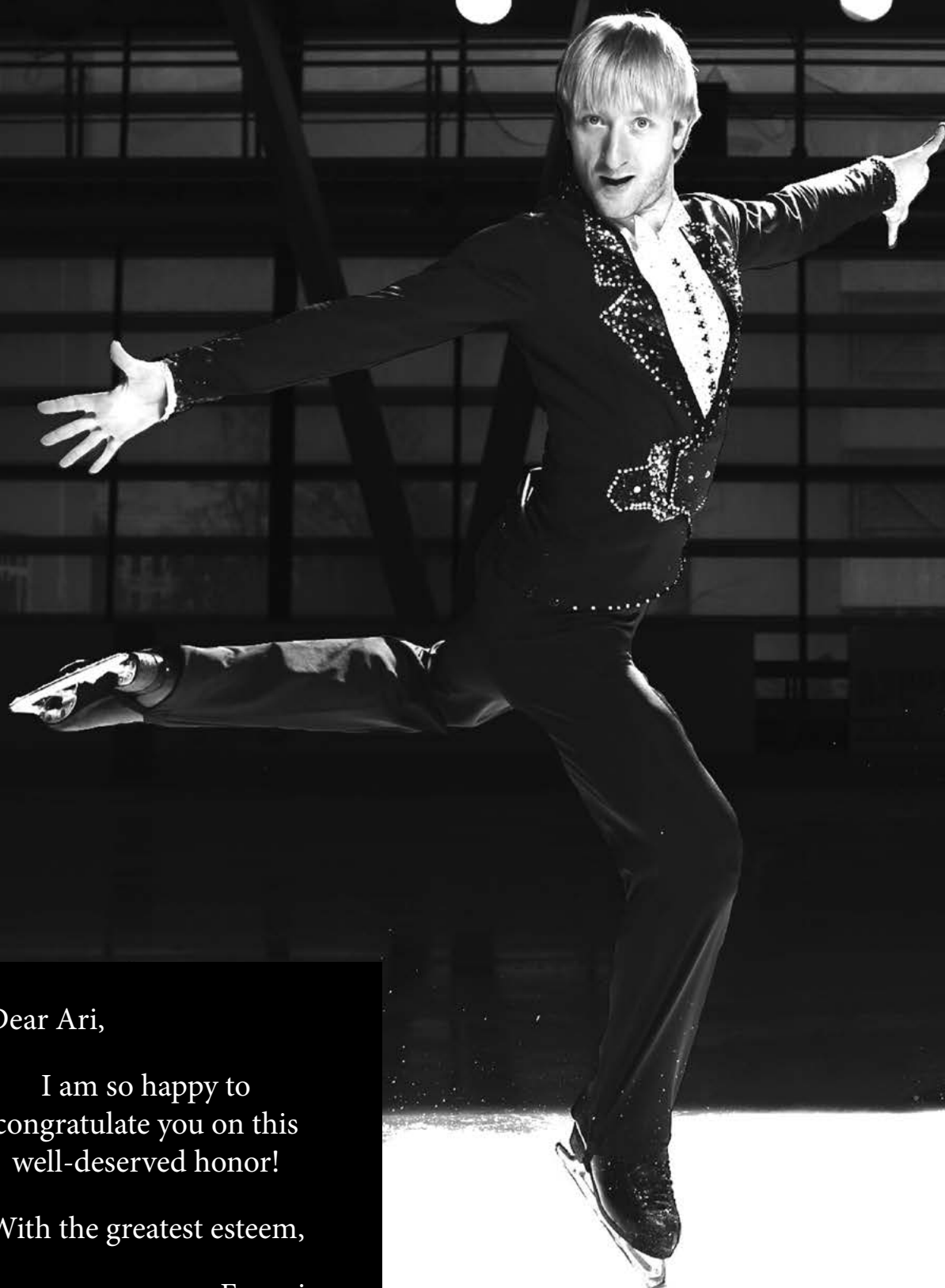
They produced the first video to teach skating fundamentals, “HOW TO ICE SKATE with Tai and Randy.” In 1992, both were inducted into the United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame, joining skating legends Scott Hamilton, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill and Michelle Kwan.

Randy is a noted director, choreographer and producer of ice shows and events. Tai, proud mother of twenty-two year old son, Scout, from her former marriage to producer Cary Butler, is a highly-sought after coach and producer

of international skating seminars and clinics. Randy is a U.S. Figure Skating and PSA (Pro Skaters Association) certified skating instructor, and on-site coach for Dorothy Hamill’s Fantasy Figure Skating Camp. His Randy Gardner School of Skating is now featured at ICE at Santa Monica on an annual basis.

It’s incredible that they are celebrating fifty years together! To those who remember them as the new kids on the block, this is a dizzying milestone. “Tai and Randy – not unlike ITNY, I might add – have proven to be survivors,” notes company founder Moira North. “They are shining examples of the old adage, ‘It’s not what happens to you but how you deal with it that defines your character.’ We’re delighted that Babilonia and Gardner are our honorees for 2017.”

Edward Z. Epstein’s current book is “AUDREY & BILL: A Romantic Biography of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden” (Running Press). It is under option for a film. He has written a play, “AVA,” based on the life of Ava Gardner.



Dear Ari,

I am so happy to  
congratulate you on this  
well-deserved honor!

With the greatest esteem,

— Evgeni

# ARI!

## ALUMNI AWARD

By Edward Z. Epstein



Energy. Enthusiasm. Drive. Charm.

Known to family, friends and fans as “Ari,” Ararat Zakarian has been an exciting and colorful figure on the skating scene for years. A competitive skater-turned producer-director-impresario, both in the United States and around the world, Ari has been described as a “showman extraordinaire,” a producer who doesn’t merely put on shows he likes, but one who produces shows he thinks the public will also like (Sonja Henie would have loved him).

“Kings on Ice” is regarded as his signature production to date. It stars his most famous client – he is also a manager and agent – Olympic champion Evgeni Plushenko.

Ari was born in Yerevan, USSR. He began skating at age four. His mother was an accountant, his father a tailor. “I was lucky,” says Ari. “He made my costumes! He was a talented man – a wonderful singer, he did magic tricks, and he was a great musician. I got my sense of music from him.”

And his drive from his Mom. Young Ari composed music from an early age, and played the piano “by ear.” He was self-taught. His sister became a music teacher.

But Ari’s goal was clear: he was determined to pursue the American Dream. With only six hundred dollars to sustain him, he embarked on a journey that would have overtones of both James Bond and

the Jason Bourne novels. He developed into an international athlete under the guidance of legendary Russian skating coach, Aleksei Mishin. He won many competitions. In 1991, he graduated from the Lesgaft Academy of Physical Education in Leningrad. As a professional skater, Ari performed with a variety of shows, traveling throughout Europe and Japan. He has been featured in the Leningrad Ballet on Ice, Disney on Ice and – from the beginning – Ice Theatre of New York, where the company founder, Moira North, and attorney George Akst, were instrumental in

launching Ari’s U.S. career.

“Working with Moira and Ice Theatre enabled me to understand skating from the American side,” notes Ari. “How to incorporate ‘artistry’ into skating, so important. Her classes were invaluable.” As was her advice on how to navigate the byzantine skating world. “Moira, and George, were very generous – the great things that happened couldn’t have happened without them.” Ari, in turn, was able to sponsor other skaters from overseas and help bring them to America.

When Ari first came to work with







ITNY, the company brought in Debbie Brown, choreographer for Cirque de Soleil, to work with Ari and his skating partner Akop Manoukian. The two men had developed a unique – “the first ever,” notes Ari – acrobatic duo-on-ice that got stronger audience reaction than performances by Olympic champions. Tom Collins featured them in “Champions on Ice,” they were consistent show-stoppers, and one opportunity led to another.

Eventually, Ari struck out on his

own. His performing career included many TV specials, commercials, movies, and tours throughout Armenia, France, Israel, Russia, Bulgaria, Poland, Baltic Republics, Italy and Japan.

His producing career began with “Global Ice” in New York City. Since then, he has produced and choreographed not only for ice shows but also for competitions, notably the Xtreme Ice World Championships.

Ari is a dual citizen of the USA and

Russia, and currently resides in Moscow. He speaks four languages: Armenian, Russian, English and Japanese. He maintains ties to Olympic skating via his position as Vice President of the Armenian Figure Skating Association. He remains a featured commentator on skating for ESPN and the USA Network.

He is passionate in his pursuit of new venues for figure skating, and often writes about the sport. His eye for talent is, as one journalist observed, “right on the money.”

“Ari combines imagination, and a flair for showmanship, with a very practical ability to get things done,” notes Moira North. “To paraphrase the Sondheim lyric, he’s great at ‘putting it together.’ And he’s great fun to be with, an asset no matter what one’s profession. ITNY is proud to present him with our Alumni Award for 2017.”

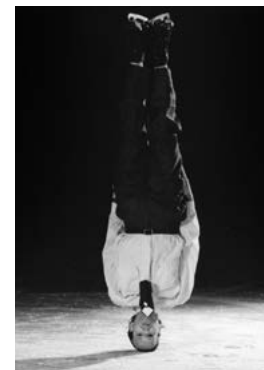
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## Congratulations Ari!

Akst & Akst PLLC  
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Specialists in Immigration Law





*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

# 2017 BENEFIT GALA

THE COMPANY, PAST AND PRESENT





An Ice Angel we are so very  
proud of, and her parents  
Bob and Ann would be joining  
in the applause as well!

With love,  
John Almond  
(with Patty Van Buren Almond in spirit)  
Bill, Donna, and Kate Van Buren

Photo credit Robyn Roth-Moise



Here's to a Good Skate!  
Congratulations Missy.



From  
Lynn and Charlie Poekel



Congratulations Missy!

Donna Lynn Burns  
Holins Alumnae





# MISSY VANBUREN

## ICE ANGEL

Missy first came to know Ice Theatre as a fan who liked watching ice dance performances. Not a skater herself, she simply loved the beauty and artistry of ice dancing and the fluidity of movement on ice. She spent several years as a spectator, following the company, enjoying the elegance and exuberance of their performances. The ITNY community was very welcoming to an outsider with no real skating knowledge.

Since she had a life-long commitment to giving back, Missy became an ITNY volunteer, helping out with performances and providing general support to the company's outreach programs. She worked closely with all the people who made the company run, as well as with those who just enjoyed the beauty of it as she did. She was able to see and share the sheer joy Ice Theatre brings to audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

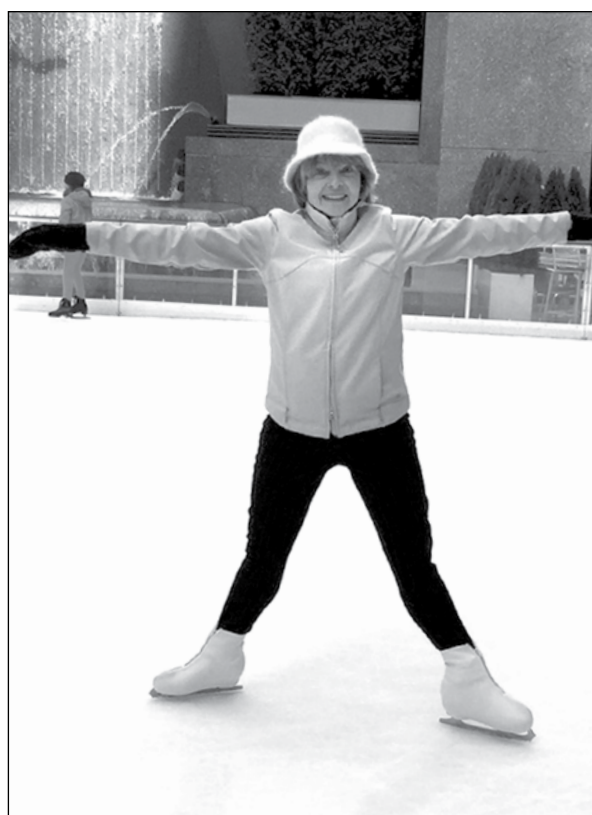
Missy joined the ITNY Board of Trustees in 2002, serving for 15 years, first as Treasurer and, later, as Vice Chair of the Board. She offered her financial and business administration training to help guide ITNY to stable financial footing, with a balanced budget and zero debt. Missy's work on the Board helped her expand her own horizons, making wonderful new friends and bringing her to interesting places and new experiences. She feels the "skating connection" has enriched her life in unexpected ways.

Her 40-year career in Financial Services, working with global

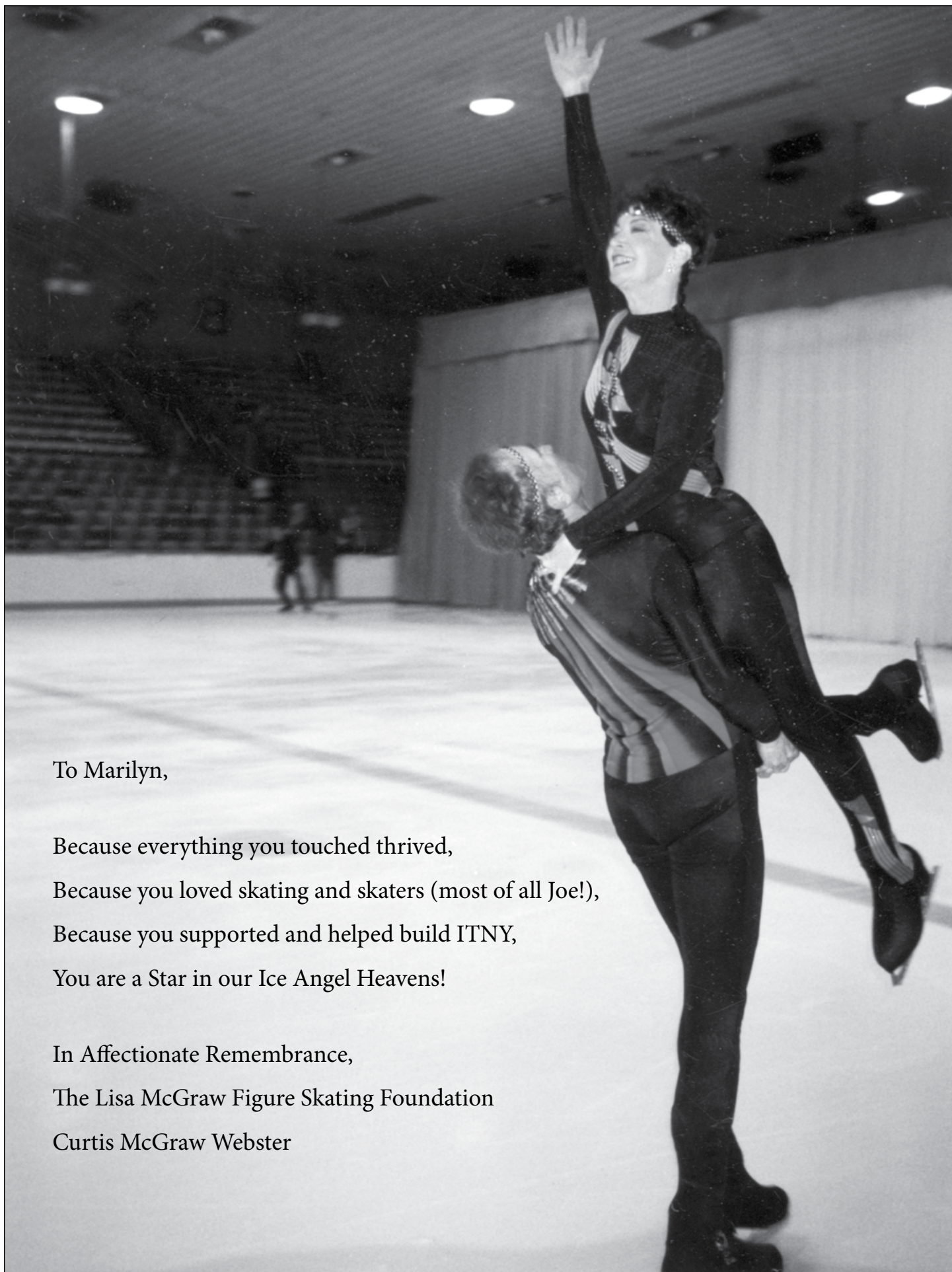
financial institutions and traveling around the world, left little time for outside interests. But, at retirement, Missy traded Wall Street for ice skates and was finally able to take up her interest in skating, joining group classes at Rockefeller Center and taking lessons with a coach at Chelsea Piers' Sky Rink. Missy credits Ice Theatre for providing her entrée into the skating world and allowing her to realize her long-held desire to skate – she only wishes she had started a long time ago! Previously, an "outsider looking in," Missy is now an "insider" and proud to be part of the art of skating. Missy loves being on the ice: now she is able

to experience directly the pleasures that skating provides, especially the camaraderie of skaters. She has been inspired by both the dedication and focus of committed skaters and the relentlessly upbeat world of figure skating. She will always be in awe of the grace that skaters bring to their art.

Missy feels very rewarded and satisfied by her work with Ice Theatre, surrounded by the support of the ITNY "family." She celebrates the diversity and inclusiveness of ITNY's company, guest performers, and outreach programs. She is living proof that ice dancing can be enjoyed on many levels, not just as a part of the Olympics. Missy believes whatever you give will ultimately come back to you, and then some, and she will always be grateful to Ice Theatre of New York for enriching her life – Thank You, Ice Theatre!







To Marilyn,

Because everything you touched thrived,  
Because you loved skating and skaters (most of all Joe!),  
Because you supported and helped build ITNY,  
You are a Star in our Ice Angel Heavens!

In Affectionate Remembrance,  
The Lisa McGraw Figure Skating Foundation  
Curtis McGraw Webster



# MARILYN KASPUTYS (1936-2017) ICE ANGEL



From ballroom dancing to a passion for ice dance, from marrying young and raising four daughters to running her own ice dance program for ten years at the Skating Club of Boston, from dancing in the White House as the wife of a political appointee to giving her heart to many good causes—including Ice Theatre of New York!—Marilyn Patricia Kennedy Kasputys knew the value of commitment.

Marilyn loved studying with skating teachers including Kim Navarro, Brent Bommentre, and Keith Lichtman, working with them to create numbers with fun and challenging choreography, including lifts, spins, and footwork, for her and Joe to perform. In annual trips to St. Moritz and Sun Valley, she skated and skied enthusiastically.

Marilyn was a woman of grace, style, and elegance. She had a flare for fashion. A talented seamstress, she often created her own skating costumes and ball gowns. She also knew everything about creating a home filled with love, teaching her children, six grandchildren, and three young great-grandchildren the values she lived by.

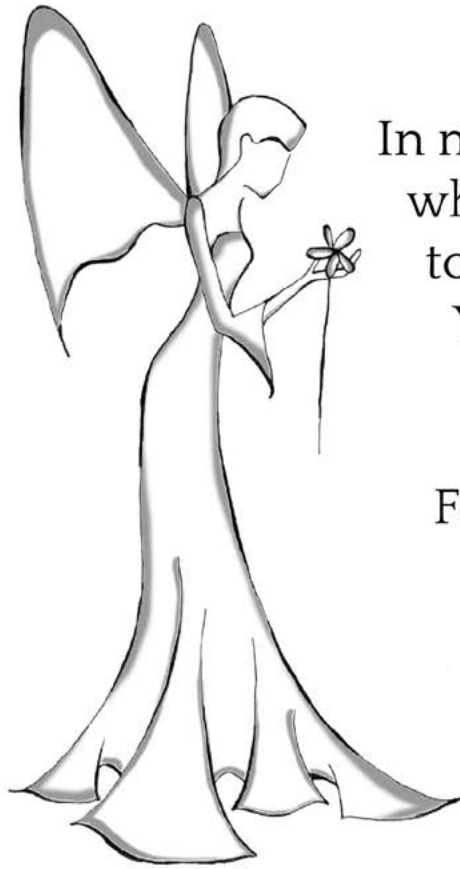
While Marilyn's last years were spent in Lincoln, MA, and Sun Valley, she had also lived in New York City, Washington, DC, and other cities. Thank goodness she spent some real time here in New York City where ITNY was so lucky to have so much positive attention from her and from Joe, who served on our Board!



And, on the sports side of her life in Massachusetts, she had unwavering confidence in her team, the Patriots, which finally won just as she slipped from life on February 5.

We miss Marilyn and honor her for her joy and generosity, her achievement of her artistic ambitions through ice dance, and her abiding support for skating artists! Farewell, Marilyn, you were a gift to everyone you encountered.





In memory of our friend  
who always took time  
to smell the flowers.  
You are loved and  
greatly missed,  
dear Marilyn.  
Forever you remain  
our Ice Angel.

Kim and Lisa Navarro

*To Marilyn,  
I feel your absence  
in my heart,  
and your loving  
presence in the  
ITNY spirit!*

*Affectionately,  
Sonya*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL HONOREES!**

Missy, I so much valued your  
expertise and loyalty and  
enjoyed our many years  
working together on  
the Ice Theatre Board.

Joan Erdheim PHD



With deep gratitude to our Ice Angels

Marilyn Kasputys, in memoriam

Missy Van Buren

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

Board of Trustees

Dear Missy,

Congratulations on your  
Ice Angel Award.

We Love you!

Joyce & Mike



**We are very happy  
to support ITNY  
on behalf of our  
good friend and  
ICE ANGEL Missy!**

Much love,  
Doris and Charlie





Missy, you have been my angel  
since the day we met.

It was only a matter of time  
for others to see your wings.

And now Ice Theatre of New York  
is naming you an Ice Angel.

You deserve it ma chère!

— Tom

VERAWANG

# CONGRATULATIONS TO TAI & RANDY

MIKE, LENA, AND  
THE ENTIRE ICE RINK EVENTS TEAM  
APPLAUD YOUR STYLE, POWER, AND GRACE  
IN SKATING,  
AND YOUR LIFE-LONG ACHIEVEMENTS.



WE RECOGNIZE  
ARI ZAKARIAN, MISSY VAN BUREN, AND MARILYN KASPUTYS  
FOR THEIR PASSION FOR PERFORMANCE SKATING.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE ITNY  
REHEARSE AND PERFORM  
AT OUR ASSOCIATED ICE RINKS  
WINTER VILLAGE AT BRYANT PARK . NEWPORT SKATES . THE ICE AT STUY TOWN  
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MIKE CLAYTON & LENA GOTTSCHALL, PROPRIETORS

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY LENA GOTTSCHALL



To Ari,

Saluting your absolute  
love of skating,  
entrepreneurial spirit  
and generous, warm heart!

Love,

Moira and Company



Photo: Darial Sneed

SILVER PAGE (CENTER SPREAD)



Congratulations, Tai and Randy!  
Your enduring partnership is inspiring.

Missy Van Buren, so many thanks to you for building ITNY!  
This is a well-deserved recognition.

Love and esteem to the Kasputys family, and condolences.

To Moira, Jirina, and everyone at ITNY!  
Thank you for all you do to demonstrate beauty, grace, and precision on and off the ice.

Fondly,  
Clare Sheridan

Photo: Ed Forti



Congratulations Ice Theatre of New York and all the honorees



Kim Millette Verde, Richard Dwyer and Dorothy Hamill

Here we stand for the love of dance!

**Kim Millette Verde**  
2015 World Figure Hall of Fame Inductee

Photo: Deborah Hickey Photography

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HONOREES  
AND ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

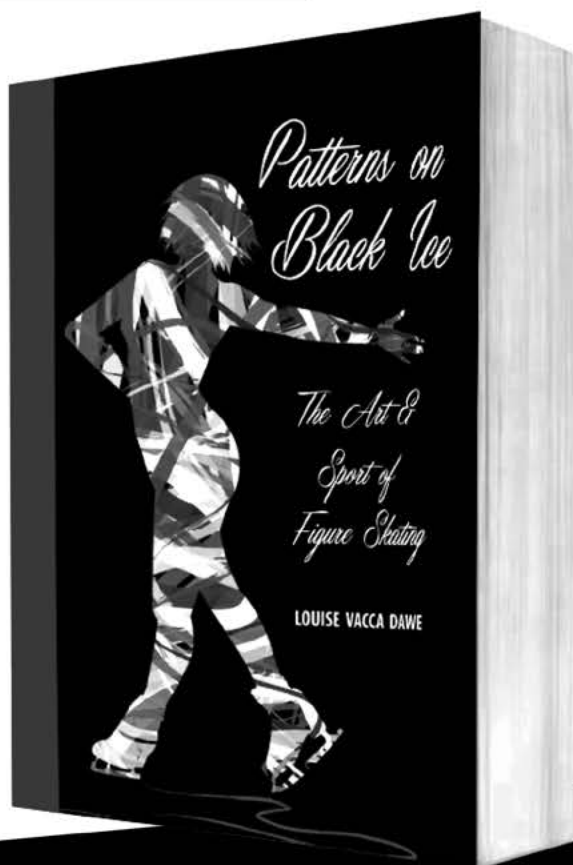


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Author, **Louise Vacca Dawe** is a gold medalist in figures and free skating, 1967 U.S. Novice Ladies bronze medalist, 1969 U.S. Jr. Ladies Champion, Senior Ladies competitor and World University Games competitor. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Education from The University of Toronto.

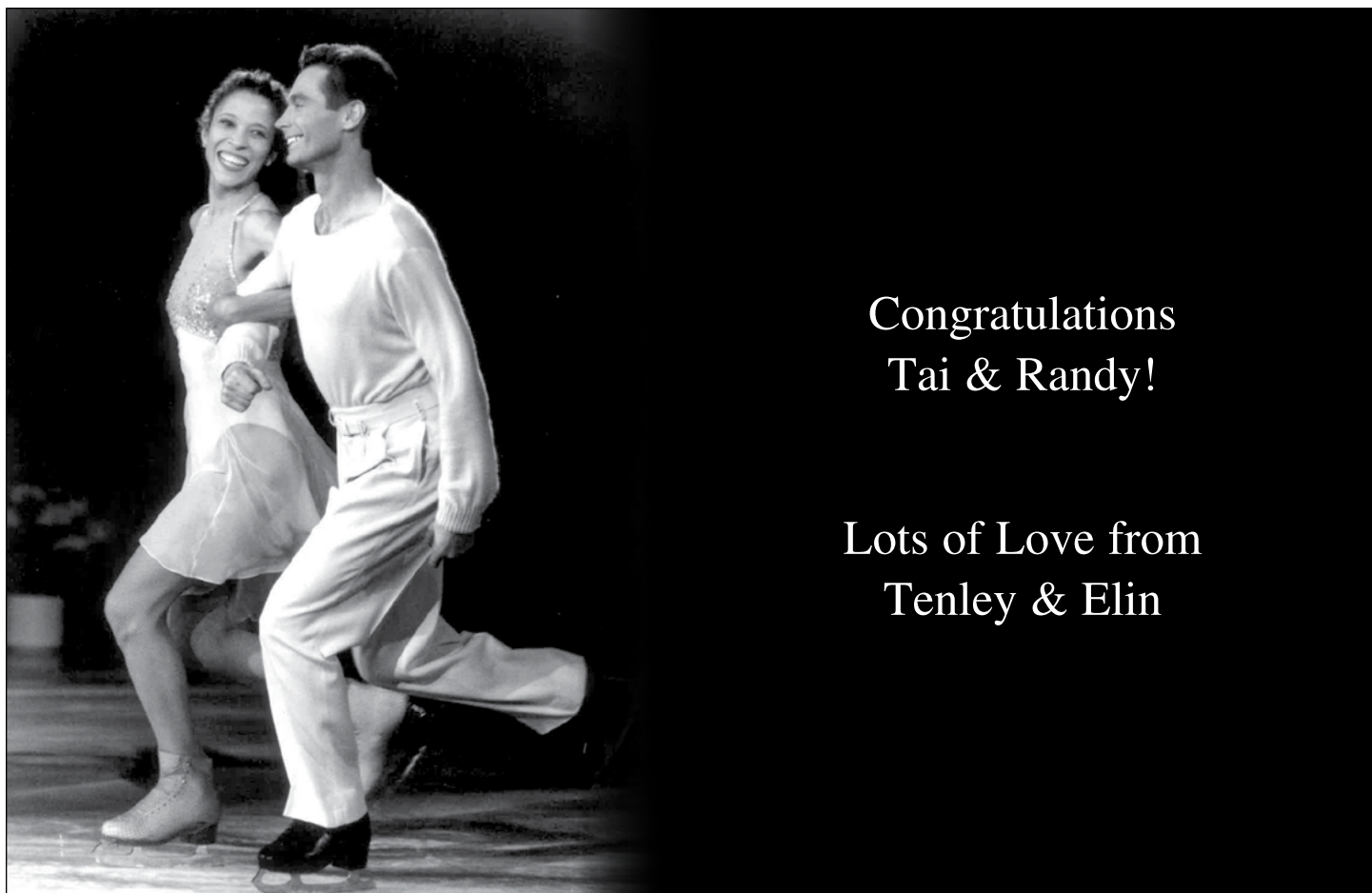
In 2015 Lake Placid, New York, a new era began in the *art and sport of figure skating*. Compulsory Figures, now known as Fundamental Figures, were skated on black ice for all to see. This was the inauguration of the World Figure Championship with unbiased judging awarding skaters solely on their ice print.

The birth of skating Figure 8 patterns on ice pre-dates the modern Olympic movement. Since the 1990 competitive season, compulsory/school figures have not been a part of the International Skating Union's World Figure Skating Championships.

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Congratulations  
Tai & Randy!

Lots of Love from  
Tenley & Elin

Congratulations, Tai and Randy  
on your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of skating together!!

You are role models and heroes for  
your family and friends, your fans,  
and for current and future  
generations of skaters, athletes,  
artists, and leaders!!

It's an honor to know you.  
We love you both.

*Michael & Mitch*

Michael Barrett & Mitch Lippman



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*"I carve in Cursive with my feet  
 Looping letters round the rink.  
 My Blades shape lines of poetry  
 All by themselves. I do not think  
 of how to rhyme or what to say  
 I let my Ice Skates write today."*

**We're so proud of our Dear Friend, Missy!**

**Ellen & Fritz Laird  
 Marie and Joe Bonk  
 Cathy and Mark Lybeck  
 Martie and Ed Samek  
 Shannon and Ted Zeller  
 Barbara Giegerich  
 Lori Vantosky  
 Judy and Fred Buehler  
 Marilyn and Mike Uffner  
 Mary Ellen and John Shea**



TO OUR FALLEN ANGELS

MARILYN KASPTUYS

2017 ICE ANGEL

DEBBIE GORDON

2012 ICE ANGEL

LUDMILA BELOUSOVA PROTOPOPOVA

1993 PAST MASTER

*Ice  
Theatre  
New York*

CONGRATULATIONS

*Tai and Randy*

**THE COLLINS FAMILY**  
**TOM, MICHAEL, MARK, AND MARTY**



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK!

Barbara & Bill Candee

Photo: Darial Sneed



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AND ALL TONIGHT'S HONOREES!

Stephen G. Epstein | Edward Z. Epstein



## ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK'S PREMIER EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM

- ★ Is in its 23rd year of programming
- ★ Is expanding to Brooklyn in collaboration with Brooklyn Ice
- ★ Annually serves 3,000 public school children grades K through 8
- ★ Offers the students a free skating show
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- ★ Teaches the students life skills such as falling and getting back up... a life lesson
- ★ Teaches the students a healthy, physical and potential life-long activity that can be done outdoors on seasonal ice rinks all around the City
- ★ The children receive free hot chocolate from Starbucks Coffee Company/Community Store
- ★ The students receive free tickets to Ice Theatre performances
- ★ The program is supported in part by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Council Member Mark Levine

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

**We could not do this  
without your support.**

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participation of a class.

**Thank you!**





CONGRATULATIONS  
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK AND  
TAI BABILONIA & RANDY GARDNER

BEST WISHES FOR ANOTHER GREAT SEASON

Richard, Ellen and Lanie Halpern

Photo: Crystal Kim



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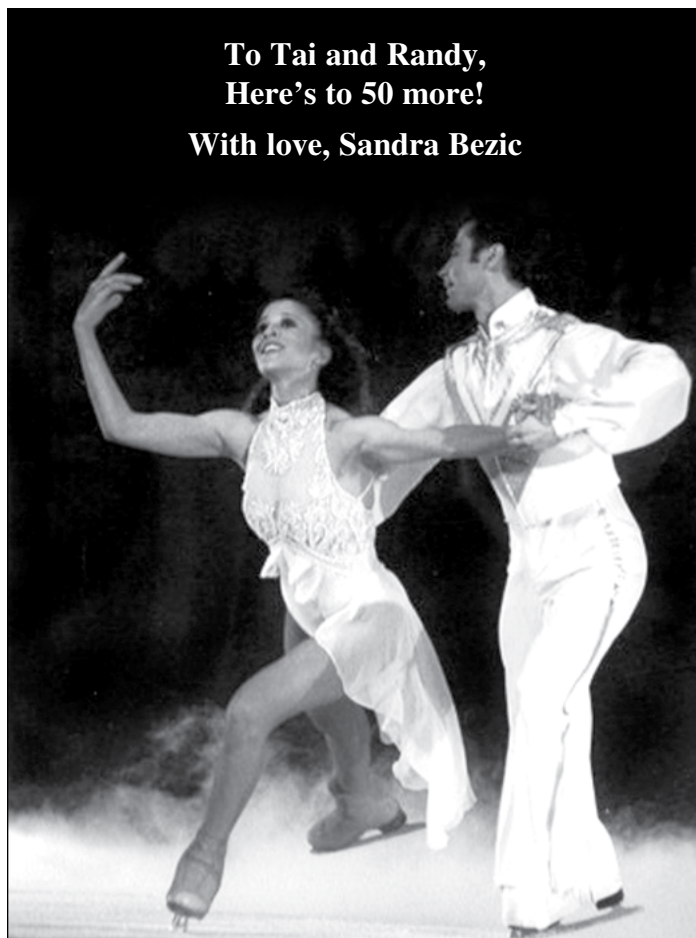
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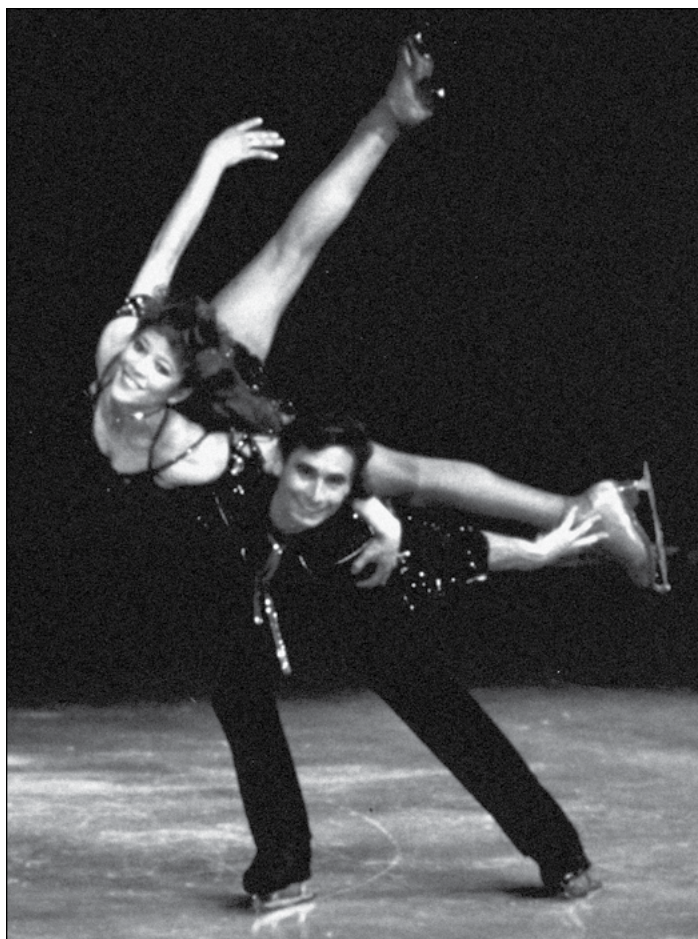
*Tai Babilonia*



THANK YOU TAI AND RANDY FOR  
ENRICHING THE SPORT WE ALL LOVE.

CONGRATULATIONS ON  
THIS WONDERFUL AND  
WELL DESERVED CELEBRATION.

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TO EVERYONE FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS ON THE ICE...  
**WE'RE CHEERING FOR YOU!**

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CONGRATULATIONS ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK  
AND ALL OF TONIGHT'S HONOREES

LINDA & DAVID TEWKSBURY | CHELSEA PIERS NEW YORK | SKY RINK AT CHELSEA PIERS



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
DEAR FRIEND AND ICE ANGEL  
MISSY VAN BUREN-BROWN

FOR HER EXTRAORDINARY  
LEADERSHIP AND DEVOTION TO  
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

CHARLIE AND CINDY LANDRETH



**Missy,**

**To our favorite Ice Angel,  
you do so much good for so many!**

**We are honored to be in your world!**

**Your friends,**

**John, Elizabeth, and Ben and  
the Team at McManus & Associates**



*The Skating Club of New York's Benefit Preview of the  
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Photo: Robyn Roth-Moise



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## ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

AND CONGRATULATE MISSY VANBUREN AND THE LATE MARILYN KASPUTYS; RECIPIENTS OF THE 2017 ICE ANGEL AWARD, AND ALUMNI AWARD WINNER ARI ZAKARIAN IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR TALENT AND DEDICATION TO THE ART OF SKATING.

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*To Moira,  
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*would like to congratulate*  
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*and all of this year's Honorees*

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TAI AND RANDY**

**THANKS FOR  
THE MEMORIES!**

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CONTINUED SUCCESS

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& Paul Martin Wolff



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Ice Theatre  
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**THANKS FOR TEACHING  
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CHRIS LIPARI  
MARILYN MEYERSON  
ELIZABETH PIPKO  
KATHERINE MANGIARDI  
LAURA MOORE  
BRIDIE MYLES  
JUDITH WILLOUGHBY

Photo: Darial Sneed



Congratulations  
Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner.

Your journey has been  
an inspiration to all of us!

We are grateful to have you  
in our skating family.

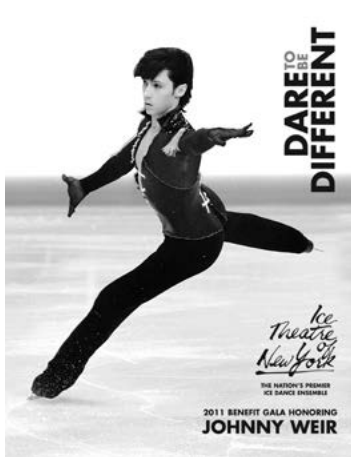
Sincerely, Sharon, FSH Team and Girls

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# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF ICE THEATRE'S HONOREES, PAST AND PRESENT.



PROUD TO BE PART OF THE  
BEHIND-THE-SCENES TEAM  
FOR ALL OF THESE YEARS.

**SCOTT SCHWARTZ**



CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

## PAST HONOREES AND ICE ANGELS

Dr. Tenley Albright  
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Sonia Rodriguez  
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Ken Shelley  
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Nancy Streeter  
Rosalynn Sumners  
Robin Wagner  
Vera Wang  
Johnny Weir  
Robert Douglas Wilson  
Paul Wylie  
Aja Zanova

## WILL SEARS AWARD

Carlie Quesada  
Adam Rippon

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

to these individuals and others whom we might have missed



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Amy Krut, Keri Pickett, John Nicks, Josef Pinlac,  
Robyn Roth-Moise, Susan Russell, Irena Sapolak,  
Toni Slotkin, Darial Sneed, Philip Tsai,  
US Figure Skating, and World Figure Skating  
Museum and Hall of Fame.

## THANKS TO ALL OF OUR ICE THEATRE VOLUNTEERS

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Olympic Champion  
Evgeni Plushenko, Guest Artist

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Joel Dear  
Christian Erwin  
Jennifer Gruver  
Eliot Halverson  
Jessica Huot  
Valerie Levine  
Stephanie Spencer  
Tara Nicole Stamm  
Conor Wagar  
Sally Jeanne Watkins

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Jennie Berlin, Emily Bleiberg, Ciara Flaherty,  
Anna Faulkner, Rae Han, Catherine Mayer,  
Electra Scheiner, and Milly Wasserman

### SCHOOL FIGURES

Denise Beaumont, Kate Mangiardi  
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Bloomberg Philanthropies  
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the Will Sears Foundation  
and our generous private patrons



Ice Theatre of New York is supported,  
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# CONGRATULATIONS

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TAI AND RANDY,  
YOUR FRIENDSHIP HAS MEANT A GREAT DEAL  
TO ME FOR OH, SO MANY YEARS.  
YOU MUST KNOW YOU ARE VERY SPECIAL TO ME.  
BEST WISHES ALWAYS,  
**RICHARD DWYER**

Photo: Michon Halio



CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THIS YEAR'S HONOREES:

TAI BABILONIA & RANDY GARDNER

MARILYN KASPUTYS AND MISSY VAN BUREN

ARI ZAKARIAN

AND THANK YOU MOIRA & JIRINA  
FOR ALL YOU DO FOR  
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

**THE HUGHES FAMILY  
THE PARKER FAMILY**