



# THE SKATING CLUB OF BOSTON

# CHIPS

Spring 2012

## So Much to Celebrate!



*Skaters' Ball photography by Zev Fisher*

February 18, 2012 was an evening so many will remember—The Skaters' Ball, our 100th Anniversary Celebration gala at the Fairmont Copley Plaza hotel. Pictured above are Olympic Silver medalist and event speaker Paul Wylie, Emily and Sheppard Holt, and Paul George, 1962 U.S. Pairs Champion and president of the Memorial Fund. For more on the Ball, please turn to pages 4-5. More wonderful event photos are available on the Skating Club's website at [www.flickr.com/scboston](http://www.flickr.com/scboston).

## President's Letter

Dear Members,

As we approach the end of another skating season we have a great deal to be thankful for, starting with your support of the many events we have hosted this year of our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Thank you all for your time and talent.

The club has also been very busy preparing for all of the events that have been completed and those to come before this skating season is finished. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and without it we would not be able to do what we do, providing successful events to the benefit of our members and the skating community.

The following events have required the support of our volunteer base this year along with the very diligent work of our office and facilities staff which is a key ingredient in making things happen.

- We started the year by hosting with a very successful 2012 New England Figure Skating Championships, which as

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# President's Letter

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always was a great success and received raving comments from the officials, coaches parents and skaters.

- Junior Activities Committee organized the Mary Louise Wright Memorial Event, Halloween and Holiday events with many of the skaters supporting other's events as opportunities were presented.
- The Skaters' Ball celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was an outstanding success with attendance of people from all over the country at 573 people strong.
- We hosted, with Team Excel, the 2012 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships at the DCU Center. This was the first time the club has hosted this competition and once again we had excellent results with an untiring volunteer base to handle the movement of over 1600 skaters, their coaches and managers. We are still receiving congratulations on a job well done by skaters, coaches, officials and parents.
- We hosted a Basic Skills Competition and as always had a great time with outstanding results.
- Our Ice Chips Show has been described as the best ever, with changes all around and outstanding performances by our skaters and our guest. Very well done!
- The Club Competition, held April 29 with rousing Club spirit.

We still have events to complete before the skating year end June 30 2012:

- Club members heading to Governing Council - May 2-5
- The Annual Meeting – May 11
- PSA Convention Seminars to be held at the club May 25
- Awards Banquet – June 15
- The Boston Open – June 21-24

Following is an outline of the status and progress on our Long Range Plan as we continue to move forward.

***Chips*** is the official publication of The Skating Club of Boston and is edited by **Barb Fritz**.

Your editor can use your help! photography, editing tests passed, and news sections are all open for your involvement. Join in!

The deadline for submissions for the next issue is **June 15**, to **editor @chipsboston.com**. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, and accuracy.

**Chips** is emailed to readers to conserve resources. Current and back issues are posted on the Club website.

The club signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Harvard June 8, 2011 outlining specific requirements with time frames that would lead to the following:

- Develop a Land Swap Agreement (LSA)
- Create a Site Plan Design with Harvard's Approval
- Satisfy The Boston Redevelopment Agency (BRA) requirements and neighbor concerns
- Perform due diligence – Harvard of our land and the club on Lincoln Street
- Secure permits from the BRA, Boston Building and Fire Departments
- Secure Financing
- Complete Construction in a timely manner

## Land Swap Agreement (LSA)

- Conversion of the LOI into an agreement with specifics for each

The Skating Club of Boston is located at 1240 Soldiers Field Road in Boston, Massachusetts 02135. Telephone 617-782-5900, fax 617-782-7846.  
Visit The Skating Club of Boston website at [www.scboston.org](http://www.scboston.org).

# President's Letter

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element of the LOI

- Hire Legal Counsel
- Negotiations on the LSA continued throughout the summer of 2011 and was signed the end of November 2011

## Land Swap Agreement

- 90 day due diligence commenced on the day of the signing in November 2011 and has been in progress since then with extensions as necessary to complete issues that need additional time. At the present time the period has been extended to May 11, 2012
- Develop a Lease Back agreement so the club can stay in the existing facility until new facility is complete. 3 year period
- Non – Compete Agreement
- Site Plan Approved by Harvard – preliminary approval granted
- Required permits from BRA have commenced with preliminary meetings
- Building and Fire Code permits will be sought at appropriate time in the process
- Proof of our ability to fund the cost of construction in order to close on the land
- Demolish the existing building on Lincoln Street

## New Facility Design

- Architectural Resources Cambridge have been our Architects since the original concept was developed in 2004 and presented to membership at the Annual Meeting in 2009
- Design work paralleled the Land Swap Agreement negotiations
- Rendering and Model of the proposed facility is on display at the club

## Cost

- Budget estimates are being prepared by Suffolk Construction
- More detail to be provided at a later date

## Schedule

- Capital Fund Raising and Financing is in the planning stages
- Permitting – 6 months to 1 year
- Construction start Spring 2013
- Construction complete last quarter 2014

We have submitted a revised proposal due to the change in date for the event for the 2014 U.S. Figure Skating Championships and expect to hear on the selected location in June after the USFS June Board Meeting.

Congratulations to all of our graduating high school seniors, best of luck and continued success as you move forward with your careers.

The 100<sup>th</sup> year of the club has been very busy with outstanding results.  
Enjoy your summer!

Regards,  
Joe

*Did you know our president Joe Blount gives a great recap of what's happening at the Club at almost every Friday night dinner? These, in addition to his President's Letters, are a great way to stay on top of what's going on. We thank Joe for his hard work, and his great effort at keeping us all apprised of Club business. -ed.*



# The Perfect Celebration

It was the nicest party you'd ever been to, with every skating friend you'd hoped to see in one place. The reunion you'd always dreamed of, but thought was not possible. Even the planning committee, spearheaded by co-chairs Sally Zeghibe and Suna Murray, hadn't quite dreamed the Skaters' Ball, held to celebrate the Skating Club of Boston's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, could be such a magical evening, but that's exactly what it was.

Celebrating "100 Years of Excellence," the February 18 event brought skating friends from as far as Singapore to the stunning Copley Plaza ballroom, which was awash with graceful white flowers. The Bo Winiker Orchestra serenaded 573 guests (a sell-out so overwhelming, Sally told Chips, the Copley Plaza had to keep opening new areas for seating.) Guests were dazzling with ladies in sparkling cocktail dresses and long gowns, and men in evening attire. Everyone looked simply gorgeous, and the event was just as beautiful.

Skating luminaries were everywhere; Dick Button and Paul Wylie both graced the stage and spoke eloquently of their time skating at the club. Tenley Albright and Dorothy Hamill were as lovely as they were gracious, and Randy Gardner, Brian Boitano and Peter Carruthers had a great time connecting with their Boston friends. Nancy Kerrigan made it a family evening, bringing her mom, Brenda and husband Jerry.

Doug Zeghibe and his crackerjack team of Aaron Williams and their public relations advisors worked hard and the Club made headlines in the Boston Globe, a terrific story on WCVB's newsmagazine Chronicle, and other splashes throughout the media. There was a wonderful story in *Skating* magazine along with a great post in Sarah and Drew's icenetwork blog. The Committee created a keepsake program book to commemorate the evening, complete with current and historical skating photos, memorable articles and letters from Club President Joe Blount, Boston Mayor Tom Menino and USFS president Pat St. Peter.



*Skaters' Ball photos by Zev Fisher*

Among the out of town dignitaries was a contingent of USFS leaders, including Pat St. Peter, Executive Director David Raith and a group of past USFS presidents (including our own Ben Wright), who gave a heartfelt presentation to our president Joe Blount. The USFS team rushed in from a meeting in the Midwest, and Pat told us they barely had time to change before dinner and were "thrilled" to be part of the event.

The reunion atmosphere of the evening was what so many enjoyed, and what so many guests traveled to the event hoping for. Sally credits Suna and her "little black book." *Chips* recalls watching Suna send emails every day for months to sell tables and personally inviting Club members to come to the ball, even if they were now living far away. Suna credits Paul George for personally inviting and hosting the past presidents, and Warren Naphtal who serves as both Club and USFS Treasurer, for bringing in the US Figure Skating leaders. "Once they started the ball rolling," Suna said, "Everyone came!"

"The beauty of the skating community," Sally told us, "is that even after 30 years you can pick up right where you left off as if nothing ever happened." For her, seeing Brian Boitano and Randy Gardner, two skaters for whom she served as "house mother" when they came to town to skate in Ice Chips or an Evening with Champions, was a treat.

For all of us who attended the Skaters' Ball, it was an evening to celebrate, one to be proud of, and an evening we'll remember for many years to come.

# A look at the Skaters' Ball



Upper left: Dorothy Hamill and Tenley Albright were stunning. Upper right: Sally Zeghibe and Doug Zeghibe—a proud moment. Lower left: The program book. Lower right: Peter Carruthers signs autographs for two of the prettiest party guests. Photos by Zev Fisher.  
More photos are online at [www.flickr.com/scboston](http://www.flickr.com/scboston)



# A Hallowed Place

By Christie Allan-Piper

*Editor's note: Christie Allan-Piper, coach and longtime member of the Skating Club of Boston, wrote this lovely article for the Skaters' Ball program. It is her memories of our building and skaters which she recounts here so beautifully.*

Within the giant silver Quonset hut along the Charles is a magical kingdom passersby can barely imagine. When the ice is freshly resurfaced, it reflects the semi-circular roof and the great mirror\*, making a complete circle, an icy, mirrored circular cathedral.

Today we see international competitors, Ross Miner, Stephen Carriere, Harrison Choate, Yasmin Siraj, pair skaters Simon Shnapir & Marissa Castelli, Gretchen Donlan & Andrew Speroff, Tyler Harris & Kloe Chanel Bautista, push the frontier of skating. Whatever the outcome of their performances elsewhere, their achievements on this ice increase daily, rivaling and extending standards of the past.

On the ice under that great arc, some of the world's greatest skating has taken place. Here Dick Button landed his first triple jumps. Dick, Gretchen Merrill, Joan Tozzer, Hugh and Margaret Graham, Hayes Jenkins, Tenley Albright, Ronald Ludington and Nancy Rouillard, Bradley Lord, Gregory Kelley, Laurence Owen, Maribel Owen and Dudley Richards, Lorraine Hanlon, Tina Noyes, Susan Kelley and Andy Stroukoff, Sheryl Franks and Michael Botticelli, John Petkevich, Nancy Kerrigan, Paul Wylie, Mark Mitchell, Peter Johansson, and Ross Miner have practiced World and Olympic programs.

These names are in the annals, but world caliber skating by unsung skaters in unsung moments, no less magical occurs here as well. Here Tom McGinnis's legs rose as high as his ears on his split jumps. I'm told by Ben Wright that Freddie Tomlins, 1938 British World Silver Medalist, on this ice did a double Salchow spanning 24 feet. Felix Casper matched that distance on a waltz jump. Ben Wright, himself, was known for effortless spread eagles, long before he became known as the eagle eyed judge. Even as a child, Olympian Tina Noyes, a fireball with flaming hair, burned the ice.

Prior to coming as coaches, Frank Muckian, Mark Mitchell, Peter Johansson, and Jason Wong skated spectacularly here, as did Bobby Black. Ron Kravette and his partner, Amy Webster, danced with straight backs on velvet knees. Little Liane Moscato floated through the air.

Once a child on a school holiday found herself the only non-Gold medalist skater on patch, between Mary Louise Wright, and World Team members, Tenley Albright, Hayes Jenkins, Hugh and Margaret Graham. In stillness, they laid out astonishing lace patterns, perfectly shaped, perfectly traced, while there in the middle patch was a wide, white, messy, tortured trough, a beginner's pitiful figure eight. It was the only time the child ever left the ice before the buzzer rang, desperate to disassociate from the shameful marks. In retrospect, especially now, when such figures never will be seen again, it was a privilege to have had that close view of perfection and a lesson on the miles to go, before the skater learned to make such marks herself.

Some of the most beautiful edges, spins, jumps, and astonishing improvisations to music have been unfurled on this ice. Over the years there has been a procession of skaters, among them, little, lithe Jo Barnum, the three choreographers, Paul McGrath, Paul Toomey, both chosen by John Curry to star in his company, and Nathan Birch, ballet star Damien Woetzel, Chynna Pope, Alex Laboy, Layla Siraj, all moving like silk scarves, Lynn Finnegen, who flew like a comet, Shepherd Clark, who skated like an angel, Tenley's daughter, Elin Gardiner Schran, who skates like joy, itself.

Even beginners, emboldened for the first time to fly across the ice, have felt exalted moments. Some have felt triumph in mastering simple crossovers, others, surmounting fear of performing, others such as Marina Shelton, severely injured in a riding accident, mustering all her strength, aided by family, friends, and a walker, to return to the ice, an exercise in will and grit as great as any Olympic program.

This rink is a hallowed place, where spirits are tested and uplifted. Stretching out our arms beneath that great vaulted ceiling, it seems to me that every skater has the chance for a moment to connect with and become the conduit between earth and sky and past and future. When there, joyously in the moment, suspended between ice and air, consciously or not, we commune with every other skater who has been here, in every other time, in perfect balance, in a perfect moment. Here we share the same physical and spiritual space with the immortals and we become one with everything before and after.

\* The mirror was the gift of Ellie and Bob McKee, beautiful dance champions on floor and ice, who used to waltz beneath it.

# Door opens for New Editor

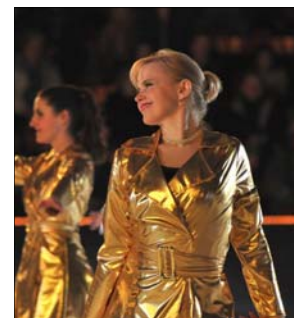
I took over editing the Chips newsletter in early 2009, in my first full year as a Board member. I've enjoyed telling the Club's stories and celebrating the accomplishments of our members, both on-ice and off. As Editor, I inherited a great newsletter format developed by my predecessor, Susan Withrow, who has returned to **Chips** as a wonderful writer.

With my second Board term coming to a close at the end of June, I will be stepping down from my role as Chips editor. Now is a great time for another Club member or members to bring their talents to the newsletter. The possibilities are endless, as most of our members now read the newsletter online. What started as a print publication and is now an online read-only document could become more interactive, led by a person or team with the right technical skills. (For those of you wondering, **Chips** is currently laid out using Microsoft Publisher, which I learned while doing the first issue. It wasn't hard!)

The length and frequency of the publication is determined by the Editor in conjunction with Board advisors. Currently, the newsletter is published four times a year. The most important part of **Chips** is getting important information across to our members, so a new editor or editing team may decide that a less formal, more frequent type of communication would be better for the membership and / or easier to produce.

Think creatively. Talk to your Skating Club friends and consider whether you, or a group of you, could take over the helm of **Chips** and lead it into the future. If you'd like information about what currently goes into writing and producing **Chips**, drop me a note at [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com). Even if you're thinking about starting with an article or column, or simply want to know more, let's talk. Unlike committees that require specific meeting times, this is one that allows the editor(s) flexibility about when and how the job gets done.

I hope to work with the new editor(s) on the summer issue before I step back into my "old" role as a competitive adult free skater. The Club has many great stories to tell, and this is a fun way to express your love for skating and this terrific community.



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## Gold Medal Congratulations!



Rebecca Reynders was all smiles as she stepped onto the podium to receive her Gold medal, having won first place in the figure skating event at the Special Olympics of Connecticut's Winter Games in Simsbury, CT.

As reported on the Club's website, her mom, Mary, said, "She's so thrilled! You should have seen her sprint to the podium when they called her name!"

Rebecca is a high school freshman and has been a top Special Olympics competitor for several years. We applaud her hard work and her great attitude.

Do you have a success story to share? We'd love to share it in Chips! Please send it to us at [editor@chipsboston.com](mailto:editor@chipsboston.com).

# Judging Judges

*By Christie Allan-Piper*

The day of the memorial service for Mary Louise Wright was a mild spring day, the more welcome because it came in early February. Having arrived early, I waited outside the Mount Auburn Cemetery to enjoy the day and glimpse old friends. All the skating world would be converging to honor the memory of the international judge whose USFSA membership number was #1, (her husband, Ben, then #2, subsequently succeeded her as #1 ).

What was most interesting was to see all the skaters as they approached the chapel. Skaters all, both young and old, accustomed to standing straight, nevertheless, drew themselves up straighter still as they neared the steps, as if Mary Louise still were watching with keen unsparing eye.

Good judges do make us straighten up, do our best, surpass ourselves. We do not always like the marks and remarks they make about us, but they make us better than we were before. Sometimes the marks we most dislike are ones that spur our greatest improvement.



Each skater arriving on test or competition day, intent on how his own day will go, gives little thought to how long and hard—and cold—the day will be for every judge. It's only when we find ourselves enlisted to serve as judges ourselves, for Basic Skills or club competitions that we understand how daunting and often thankless the role of judge can be. Judging a group of neophyte competitors, we may see that the most promising skater of the group must come last, not because he was less gifted, but because the others had greater mastery of the elements to be judged on that day.

Then we understand how hard it is to judge, to make fair and yet encouraging calls. We do not want to discourage any hopeful soul. We want them to understand that while some mistake obliged us to give low marks that day, we saw the promise and great gifts often in those to whom the least marks were given. Only after the experience of being in judges' shoes awhile, do we appreciate what real judges feel, the physical discomfort, the anguished decisions they must make, and the uncompensated long hours they freely give.

Granted, judging has become kinder and gentler over time, kinder to both skaters and judges. Skaters no longer see their names posted on bulletin boards until the next testing day with "FAIL" written in upper case letters by their names. Instead they are gently, privately told to "Retry". Judges no longer have to walk perilously on the ice or kneel upon it to detect a double edge. They no longer have to hold up numbers from boxes around their necks to announce a score. Still, judging remains the most difficult task in skating. Uncompensated, judges travel often far to undergo training, trial judging, and finally the judging for no reward other than the love of skating. No bouquets are thrown at their feet after the event, but without them, there would be no events, no measure of progress, no accomplished goals for skaters.

The Skating Club of Boston launched the pioneer judges and USFSA officials, George H. Browne, Winsor Weld, his daughter, Theresa Weld Blanchard and Nathaniel Niles (who together founded Skating magazine), Sherwin Badger, Charles M. Rotch and many since. The history of the Skating Club of Boston and the USFSA is shared, intertwined from the beginning. Thanks must go to all the judges, referees, test chairmen then and now. They make all skaters rise!



# Championships in Worcester

Hosting a National Championships is an enormous undertaking –one that Team Excel and the Skating Club of Boston did in grand style for the 2012 U. S. Synchronized Skating Championships, held February 29 – March 3 in Worcester at the DCU Center. More than 145 volunteers were involved, including a core team of 27 who worked for more than a year.

The week had its surprises – snowy weather, long-forgotten in the non-winter season of 2011-2012, a team who forgot their competition dresses, and a volunteers' celebration for Club president Joe Blount, but to the 89 competing teams, representing 20 states, the event went off without a hitch.

Team Excel's Deanne Benson and Joe Blount served as Co-Chairs of the Local Organizing Committee, and their list of Committee Chairs truly merged the Team Excel and Skating Club of Boston organizations. Club Executive Director Doug Zeghibe lent his considerable event expertise, as did Jim McManus, on the Event and Operations planning and organizing side, and Team Excel's Synchro experts Kelly Requadt and Harriet Schwartz brought their knowledge of synchronized team competition.



*Jim McManus and Joe Blount are all smiles, watching a Synchro team get ready to take the ice at the U.S. Championships.*

Tim LeBlanc, then in the middle of directing Ice Chips, managed to organize a fantastic Opening Ceremonies for the event, incorporating Team Excel's Collegiate skaters as well as Skating Club of Boston soloists and pairs teams. Team Excel members led a parade of flags of each state represented in the competition, and each competing team had two skaters follow their state flag. Our competitors Ross Miner, Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir, Gretchen Donlan and Andrew Speroff, Harrison Choate and Jenelle Herman then took the ice and did a variation of the Ice Chips opening number, followed by their own show programs. There were standing ovations from the crowd, and Joe Blount told Tim he didn't think the Synchro Championships event had ever seen such an extravagant Opening. The audience and participating athletes were thrilled.

This was just the beginning of an extraordinary four days of competition. Watching the event backstage, where Linda Blount, Ann Buckley, Tammi McManus and other crackerjack organizers were keeping things on track with the efficiency of Swiss timing, this reporter / awards volunteer was stunned to see teams practicing their formations and skating transitions in the loading dock. While the stands were wild with cheers, waves and team chants, the "on deck" area was amazingly organized and whisper-quiet, as our Synchro experts had promised it would be.

When the team with the missing dresses realized they were without them, Ann Buckley and others ran around behind the scenes coordinating another team's lending of their dresses, and on-the-spot alterations, if necessary. Team Excel Collegiate competitor Rachael Naphtal told us later that several teams, including hers, had offered their dresses; the team had had their choice of dresses that would best suit their music. Now this truly is a "team" sport!

From my volunteer perch as medal presenters' wrangler, I was privy to the comments of the event referees, officials and judges who assisted us with medal presentations each evening. They were very impressed with the professionalism of the way the event was run, the "calm atmosphere" backstage, the volunteers, and the DCU staff. Everything was on time, the ice was perfect, and as one parent wrote in a thank you email, the skaters were able to be at their best because of how well the competition was run.

Deanne reported to the Board that she and her committee received a number of glowing notes from athletes, coaches, and event officials after the Championships had concluded. One of the nicest was from the Chief Referee, who said he had never officiated at a more organized competition or worked with a more knowledgeable or accommodating group. He said those were not only his opinions but those of the other officials as well.

And that big team of volunteers, who represented Team Excel (50+, including current and past team competitors), Skating Club of Boston (25+), and other teams, deserves a round of applause for helping our "professionals" (that's just what Deanne, Joe, Doug, Jim and crew are) put on the kind of event our Championship Synchro skaters should have!

# Collegiate Excels

Team Excel's Collegiate team is what it sounds like – a group of college-student athletes skating together on a synchro team. But watching the U.S. Synchro Championships last month in Worcester, MA, we were struck by an important difference between Team Excel's Collegiate Team and the other teams at that level – they don't go to the same school.

Their competitors represent schools like Miami University (Ohio), University of Michigan, and University of Delaware. The event coverage on [icenetnetwork](#) talked about school spirit, connectedness, seniors graduating together, fight songs and school colors. One school even had its mascot present at the competition.

And Team Excel's collegiates? Their team of 21 skaters attend 17 different schools, ranging from Massachusetts to Rhode Island. Over the four years that the team has been competing, they have represented 34 different schools from Maine to Connecticut. As a bit of humor, Team Excel skaters had T-shirts printed with "Excel University" on them – we wonder how many of their competitors have asked just where that school is.



*Team Excel Collegiate at the U.S. Synchro Championships. Event photos by Jamie Hull*

Why skate together as a team, when some area schools, like Boston University, field their own teams? Team Managers Lee Anne Filosa and Melissa Delano had skated on a senior team coached by Merita Mullen in 2007-2008. They knew they didn't have enough skaters to sustain that team for a subsequent season, and brainstormed how to continue with the sport they loved. They messaged hundreds of skaters via Facebook to gauge, and Melissa had the idea of starting a collegiate team tied to a skating club rather than a single school. In Boston's college-rich environment, this could open the doors to a lot of eligible, interested skaters. Merita checked with US Figure Skating, and found that although an inter-collegiate team hadn't been done before, it was allowed. In its first year together, the team finished second at Easterns and 9<sup>th</sup> at Nationals. When Merita came to the Skating Club in 2009 with Team Excel, the Collegiate team was excited to join her here.



This season, Lee Anne said, has been their best yet. The team is now funded by the Team Excel Collegiate Scholarship, which was set up by a few very generous donors. It allows the skaters to focus on school and skating. She says having skaters from many schools could be seen as a disadvantage, but that Team Excel attracts skaters who are really passionate about the sport, are incredibly genuine and nice. They value their time together on the ice, and have really become a cohesive unit, especially this season. Lee Anne said they celebrate when their teammates get a good grade or a job, and offer support when a member goes through something difficult. For the skaters, the team becomes a home away from home. *(continued)*



# Collegiate Excels

continued

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After a fourth-place finish at Easterns this year, Team Excel continued to train hard. Synchro Nationals, after all, was in their backyard. They did not disappoint.

At Nationals, they finished fifth in a 13-team event filled with intricate moves, thrilling transitions, and electrifying speed. The women, in black halter dresses with fuchsia underskirts and sparkling necklines, skated to a Billy Joel medley. They looked strong, confident, and elegant as they flew from element to element, gracefully moving through complicated patterns. Their footwork was a particular highlight. Coach Merita Mullen said the team did just what they'd trained to do: brought their best performance of the year to the ice at Nationals.



*Team Excel Collegiate executes a difficult element at the Championships. Photo by Jamie Hull*

Having the event in Worcester, so close to home, felt nice to the team, who was surrounded by volunteers they knew from the Skating Club. Even the smiling faces of the medal bearers were familiar, although the Team Excel Juvenile girls who had volunteered for the medal ceremonies were disappointed they didn't get to deliver medals to their favorite team.

"We are so thrilled with our skate and placement. The support we felt from the Skating Club during the competition really helped us skate even that much better. It was wonderful having friendly faces all around us at Nationals," Lee Anne said, "The Skating Club really did a fabulous job hosting Nationals, and I hope they get the chance to do it again in the near future!"

**Chips** thanks our many contributors for the hard work they've put into the Spring 2012 issue, and gathering information and photographs for us. Jacqueline and Jeanne Raftery have just joined us as Competition Editors, compiling results from all the competitions we are involved in. It's a tough job! Aaron Williams gathers results of Tests Passed, as well as the all-important list of New Members and Membership changes. Colleen O'Brien and her diligent team in the front office send updates and details on a range of topics—they are our eyes and ears!

Sally Zeghibe, Suna Murray, Joe Blount, Ann Shaughnessy, Amanda Farkas, Deanne Benson, Ann Buckley, Doug Zeghibe, Becky Stump and Lee Anne Filosa helped with ideas and stories. Robin Lee captured beautiful Ice Chips pictures. Christie Allan-Piper gave us two wonderful articles, and she has given much to *Chips* in my tenure as editor. Jamie Hull takes (and shares) wonderful photographs in addition to the office and webmaster roles she manages.

If you enjoy reading *Chips*, think about how you might become a part of it - writing, editing, story ideas—in the future.

## In our next issue:

Board Election Results

Club Competition

Adult Championships

The Boston Open

Theatre on Ice  
Championships

And so much more!!



# Klingbeil: a visit to boot heaven

by Barb Fritz

As skaters, we may agonize over what kind of skating boots to get, whether we need customs or can get away with stock boots, and when we need a new pair. Once we find a “make” we like, that fits us well, we fear change. Why mess with a good thing?

I’ve worn custom **Klingbeil** boots, made in a little, old-fashioned shop in Jamaica, New York, since 1995. My best friend wore them, and my coach wears them, reasons good enough for me. My skate sharpener at the time convinced me that my “odd” heels (I’m told they’re very narrow) and generous ankle bones were the reason I needed custom boots. The fact that I could physically go to New York and have them fitted by the founder, Bill, and later his son, Don, was reassuring.

When I heard early this winter that Klingbeil might be closing their doors due to the economy (in the locker room, this kind of news travels quickly) my mind started whirling. Should I order another pair? If the factory is busy with “final” orders, will they be able to build a pair for me? Will the quality be up-to-par? I made a late-February appointment for a fitting and an adjustment to my current pair and tried to tune out the buzz. I figured I’d let the professionals in New York tell me what my boots and I needed.

The day before my appointment, Lorraine, Klingbeil’s silky-voiced receptionist, called me to cancel. “We’re moving to Manhattan, honey, and we’re going to be closed on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. So you’ll call us in a couple of weeks and come down.” What? If anything, it didn’t sound negative. Moving doesn’t mean closing. I re-organized my calendar and went to Klingbeil’s new showroom on West 38<sup>th</sup> St., in the heart of the Garment district, in early March. I knew the block well; it’s loaded with stores that sell stretch fabric, rhinestones and other things you need to make skating dresses. I’d been there just 6 weeks before to get materials for a new costume.

Walking in to the new 8,000 square foot showroom, I found gleaming black hardwood floors, an enormous crystal chandelier, and ceiling heights that would allow several of our pair teams to practice lifts. Quite a change from the old offices in Jamaica, which looked a bit like a skating museum, complete with 1970’s ice show programs and time-worn woodwork. Rows of funky men’s casual



**Top right:** rows of boot “uppers” dry, awaiting their soles.

**Middle:** a ladies’ boot upper receives its outer leather sole in a high-pressure machine

**Below:** wooden lasts, made for each customer, are stacked on top of their individual orders for new boots.

**Photo, next page:** Stitching is done on individual uppers with a special machine. Note how they are stacked in pairs, by order.

# Klingbeil visit

continued

shoes were carefully sprawled on one of the distressed wood tables. If not for the hum of factory equipment and the vision of white, black and beige leather skating boots in a large adjacent workroom, I might have thought I'd come to the wrong place.

I sat on a big leather sofa and Will Murillo, a longtime Klingbeil associate, came out of the factory area to greet me. He made a quick assessment of my boots (no, I didn't need a new pair, but did need to have a few adjustments made to mine) and went back to work on them. A skater himself, Will knows exactly what an athlete needs and showed me a different way to tie my skates for better support. Next, Don Klingbeil came out and greeted me with a warm hug. In his trademark apron, he told me a little about the company's merger with a 30-year old family-owned shoe company. I met Richie Perna, the new Director of Sales and Marketing. He told me the merged company had made men's and women's shoes and they had met Don and his employees when they'd gone out to see some equipment Klingbeil thought he'd be selling. The shoe company looked at Don's manufacturing facility in Jamaica, where boots were made by hand, starting from individually-crafted wooden lasts, and decided they "needed the people and the equipment," so a merger, not an equipment purchase, was made.



Don was beaming as he showed me around the company's new headquarters. As it turned out, I was the first client in the new space. The construction crew was still putting the finishing touches on some of the showroom areas. In all my trips to the old Jamaica facility, I'd never been allowed into the back room to see how the skates were built. This time, armed with my phone's camera, Don, Richie and Will let me see the rows of partially-constructed boots drying on racks, and watch as a few pairs received their outer soles. I saw repairs, like mine, being done on special sewing machines designed to go through several layers of leather. The wooden lasts built as "molds" of each customer's feet are stored in a special room in the back corner, ready to be accessed when a new pair of boots is needed.

The panic over what could happen to Klingbeil, the threat of a closure, seems to be past with this merger. The production line is very busy, with more than 300 pairs of skates in the queue. Richie told me they are excited about working with the skaters, but at first blush it seems the merged companies will make their separate lines, the shoes and the skating boots, side by side on the same equipment. The young partners are breathing excitement into Klingbeil, revamping its website with a new video, new ordering processes and more to come. My scheduling appointment was done online, a simple few clicks that let me choose the type and timing of my appointment, and the professional I'd work with. Parking was simple, and the showroom is close to the train station for those not wishing to brave Manhattan traffic. So many skaters are relieved that their favorite boots will still be available, and my guess is that with better marketing, more Klingbeils will find their way onto skaters' feet.

## Milestones

We note the passing of **Mrs. Carole Ludlow** on February 11, 2012. Mrs. Ludlow was a very dedicated member of the Club, serving as a U.S. Figure Skating International Official.

Chips notes the passing of **Mr. Richard (Dick) T. Rigby** on February 19, 2012. Mr. Rigby was a member of the Club from 1975-2011. He served as Vice President (1980-85), Secretary (1978-80), and was also a member of the

Board of Governors for several years. Mr. Rigby was a U.S. Figure Skating International Accountant, having officiated at the 1980 Olympics.

We note the passing of **Joan Tozzer Cove** on April 15, 2012. She proudly represented the Skating Club and was a three-time U.S. Ladies Champion and Pairs Champion (1938-1940) with her partner, Bernard Fox. She was inducted into the U. S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 1997.

# 20 years of Skatefest!

2012 is a year of anniversaries for the Club, and for our involvement in wonderful Community programs. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Skatefest, a benefit ice show for Our Place, The Salvation Army's Center for Homeless Children. Amanda Farkas, the show's Performance Director, has gracefully run the show for 16 years. We all know Amanda as a talented coach and charming ambassador for the Skating Club, but notes in the program reminded us that she skated in the early Skatefest shows when she was a National and International Competitor.

Skatefest, held on March 4 at MIT's Johnson Athletic Center, is a wonderful example of community outreach: first, it serves Our Place for Homeless Children, the first licensed day care center exclusively for homeless children in Massachusetts. Our Place helps families break the cycle of homelessness as it provides a safe place for children while their parents have the opportunity to work, seek permanent housing, receive counseling or education. More than 46 children are helped by the center each year, and many of the current and former Our Place families were in attendance at the show.

How else does Skatefest reach the community? Held on the MIT campus, the show attracts members of the Cambridge community as well as supporters of the Salvation Army. The full house at Sunday's show included many fans who were excited to get our skaters' autographs at the conclusion of the show. Who knows, maybe some of the audience members will decide to try our sport!

Our skaters got a chance to exhibit their programs in an event that raises money for a wonderful cause and also got to see one of our leaders, Amanda, in a role that they might take on one day. To successfully run an event like this takes organization, planning, experience and commitment to doing good work for the community. Amanda has always done Skatefest as a volunteer, putting her own time in to give to an organization she believes in. Amanda on the day of the event was a picture of calm, even as skaters and parents buzzed around her with questions, and old friends from the Salvation Army greeted her warmly. It is clear this is something she puts a great deal of effort into, and she goes out of her way to include new skaters in the show each year to include all ability levels and ages. It's no wonder that the Salvation Army team speaks so highly of her, and her caring that comes across in this event each year.

Ben Wright served as Honorary Chairman of Skatefest and was there to give congratulations to our skaters as they stepped off the ice. Henry Son was the announcer, lending his familiar voice to the sound system.

The skaters in this year's event:

Ryunosuke Morimoto	Christine Magill	Katie Rosen
Tori Rotella	Melissa Lee	Caitria Catania
Bennett Gottlieb	Olivia Pastore	Olivia Schmahmann
Annabel Schmahmann	Jenelle Herman	Kat Jones
Deirdre Farrell	Marissa Castelli and Simon Shnapir	Ingrid Farrell
Marietta Atkins	Team Excel Collegiate	Caitlyn Smith
Alexandra Iovanna	Annabelle Rie	Liam Beatson
Alex Shaughnessy and Jimmy Morgan	Amanda Wang	Isabelle Dost
Lindsey Stevenson	Cindy Jerrier	Heidi Munger
Jin Baseman	Barb Fritz	Kloe Bautista and Tyler Harris
Adrian Huertas	Suzanne Garcia	Jessica Lin
	Chloe Hart	Rebecca Lin
	Rachel Zeppi	Harrison Choate



# Ice Chips 2012

How can pictures tell the story of such a fantastic show? For more images, check out the Club's flickr site, [www.flickr.com/scboston](http://www.flickr.com/scboston)

We thank Tim LeBlanc and his team for an incredible show and amazing memories!



# Tests Passed

*Chips congratulates all of our Club skaters who have passed their tests! If you don't see your result here, please look for it in our Summer issue—we print results based on those available on the US Figure Skating website. The results posted here are from January through March and were available as of April 23, 2012. Results compiled by Aaron Williams.*

**Marietta Atkins** - Juvenile Free, Pre Juvenile Free, Juvenile Moves  
**Andrea Barbato** – Pre-Preliminary Moves  
**Jin Baseman** – Intermediate Free  
**Sophie Basseches** – Pre-Preliminary Moves  
**Liam Beatson** – Junior Moves  
**Kacie Buckley** – Preliminary Free  
**Kassandra Carpentier** – Intermediate Moves  
**Sara Celanovic** – Preliminary Moves  
**Dayoon Chang** – Juvenile Moves  
**Jaden Cheng** – Intermediate Free  
**Harrison Choate** – Senior Free  
**Cassandra Cole** – Preliminary Dance  
**Brianna Coviello** – Senior Free  
**Rae Deveney** – Intermediate Free  
**Isabelle Dost** – Novice Free, Novice Moves  
**Adriana Dunn** – Pre Preliminary Free, Pre Preliminary Moves  
**Deirdre Farrell** – Pre Preliminary Free, Pre Preliminary Moves  
**Catherine Fleming** – Preliminary Free  
**Katharine Francendese** – Pre Juvenile Moves, Preliminary Dance  
**Giorgina Giampaolo** – Novice Free  
**Kathleen Gordon** – Juvenile Free  
**Bennett Gottlieb** – Novice Free

**Astrid Grahn-Farley** – Pre-Juvenile Moves  
**Anne Harney** – Pre Juvenile Moves  
**Evin Hazar** – Preliminary Moves  
**Jenelle Herman** – Senior Free  
**Veronica Hernandez** – Adult Pre Bronze Free  
**Adrian Huertas** – Junior Moves  
**Alexandra Iovanna** – Intermediate Free  
**Gabriella Izzo** – Novice Moves  
**Rebecca Jacobs** – Novice Free, Novice Moves  
**Julia Jeffries** – Preliminary Free  
**Sarah Jones** – Intermediate Free, Pre Gold Dance  
**Alyssa Karbel** – Novice Moves  
**Alanna Kubik** – Novice Moves  
**Melissa Lee** – Senior Free  
**Jessica Levinson** – Pre Preliminary Free, Pre Preliminary Moves  
**Natalie Levinson** – Pre Juvenile Free, Pre Juvenile Moves  
**Rachel Locke** – Pre Juvenile Free  
**Gabrielle Luiselli** – Senior Free  
**Kate Lummis** – Intermediate Moves  
**Colleen MacInnis** – Senior Moves  
**Teodora Markova** – Solo Preliminary Dance  
**Lauren McCabe** – Senior Moves  
**Maria Minaeva** – Novice Free  
**Ashley Monahan** – Preliminary Moves  
**Haruna Morimoto** – Preliminary Free, Preliminary Moves  
**Heidi Munger** – Junior Free  
**Olivia Pastore** – Junior Free  
**Courtney Phillips** – Junior Free  
**Benjamin Powdermaker** – Preliminary Free, Pre Juvenile Moves

**Jennifer Lee Rand** – Adult Pre Bronze Free, Adult Bronze Moves  
**Julia Marie Rapela** – Junior Free  
**Alexandra Roberts** – Intermediate Free  
**Alexia Rogers** – Junior Free  
**Svetlana Savelyeva** – Pre-Preliminary Free, Pre Preliminary Moves  
**Jillian Schmottlach** – Pre-Preliminary Moves  
**Sheila Smallwood** – Adult Pre Bronze Free, Adult Pre Bronze Moves  
**Robin Song** – Juvenile Moves  
**Dominique Tannetta** – Pre-Preliminary Moves  
**Mia Tarallo** – Preliminary Dance  
**Yurkia Tarui** – Pre Preliminary Free  
**Rachel Tortora** – Pre Bronze Dance  
**Jennifer Volcker** – Preliminary Dance  
**Yuri Wada** – Pre Preliminary Free  
**Amanda Wang** – Bronze Dance  
**Christine Wang** – Silver Dance  
**Madeleine Weiler** – Pre Juvenile Moves  
**Grace Western** – Pre Juvenile Free  
**Cassandra White** – Preliminary Free  
**Rachel Zeppi** – Senior Free  
**Elizabeth Zhang** – Junior Solo Free Dance, Novice Solo Free Dance, Intermediate Solo Free Dance, Juvenile Solo Free Dance  
**Grace Zhang** – Pre Juvenile Free  
**Joanna Zhang** – Pre Preliminary Free, Preliminary Moves, Pre-Preliminary Moves

# Competition Results

*Competition results compiled by  
Jeanne and Jacqueline Raftery*

## 2012 Colonial Classic Synchronized Skating Competition

Lowell, MA—January 6-8,  
2012

### Pre Juvenile Group A

Excel Crystals White—4<sup>th</sup>

### Preliminary Group B

Excel Crystals—7<sup>th</sup>

### Beginner 1 Group C

Excel Crystals White—2<sup>nd</sup>

### Beginner 2 Group B

Excel Crystals Green—2<sup>nd</sup>

## 2012 New England Challenge Cup

Woburn, MA—January 12,  
2012

### Beginner 1 Group A

Excel Crystal White—3<sup>rd</sup>

### Beginner 2 Group B

Excel Crystals-Green—3<sup>rd</sup>

## 2012 Eastern Synchronized Skating Championships

Hershey, PA—January 27-  
28, 2012

### Pre-Juvenile FS Group A - QR

Excel Crystals Gold—8<sup>th</sup>

### Pre-Juvenile FS Group C - QR

Excel Crystals—8<sup>th</sup>

### Preliminary FS Group A - QR

Excel Crystals—4<sup>th</sup>

### Juvenile Free Skate

Team Excel—9<sup>th</sup>

### Preliminary Championship Round

Excel Crystals—5<sup>th</sup>

### Open Collegiate Free Skate

Team Excel—4<sup>th</sup>

### Collegiate

Team Excel—4<sup>th</sup> (63.41)

## 2012 Four Continents Championships

Colorado Springs, CO—  
February 7- 12, 2012

### Senior Men Short Program

Ross Miner—6<sup>th</sup> (76.89)

### Senior Men Free Skate

Ross Miner—4<sup>th</sup> (146.34)

### Senior Men Final Standings

Ross Miner—3<sup>rd</sup> (223.23)

## 2012 Bay State Games

Williamstown, MA—  
February 10-12, 2012

### Juvenile Girls Test Track - Group 1

Kirsten Sjogren—2<sup>nd</sup>

Mia Tarallo—4<sup>th</sup>

### Juvenile Girls Test Track - Group 3

Alexandria Weinstein—5<sup>th</sup>

### Juvenile Girls Free Skating

Gabriella Izzo—4<sup>th</sup>

Kathleen Gordon—8<sup>th</sup>

Sofia Hennessey—11<sup>th</sup>

### Pre Juvenile Girls Test Track

#### Group 1

Kathryn Jones—5<sup>th</sup>

Paris Baker—6<sup>th</sup>

### Intermediate Ladies Short Program

Maddey Juliano—2<sup>nd</sup>

Lindsey Stevenson—3<sup>rd</sup>

Nicole Lee—4<sup>th</sup>

Cassandra Cole—5<sup>th</sup>

Caroline Gordon—6<sup>th</sup>

### Novice Ladies Short Program

Caitlyn Smith—1<sup>st</sup>

### Senior Ladies Short Program

Melissa Lee—1<sup>st</sup>

Katelyn Rota—3<sup>rd</sup>

### Intermediate Ladies Test Track Group 2

Sarah Jones—8<sup>th</sup>

### Intermediate Ladies Free Skating Group 1

Victoria Xu—2<sup>nd</sup>

Nicole Lee—4<sup>th</sup>

Caroline Gordon—5<sup>th</sup>

### Novice Ladies Free Skating

Caitlyn Smith—2<sup>nd</sup>

Jacqueline Raftery—9<sup>th</sup>

### Senior Ladies Free Skating

Lauren Lampiasi—1<sup>st</sup>

Katelyn Rota—4<sup>th</sup>

### PrePreliminary Girls Free Skating Group 1

Gemma Parker—11<sup>th</sup>

### PrePreliminary Girls Free Skating Group 2

Morgan Besse—12<sup>th</sup>

### PrePreliminary Girls Free Skating Group 3

Ashley Monahan—6<sup>th</sup>

### Preliminary Girls Test Track Group 1

Kayley Tivnan—6<sup>th</sup>

### Preliminary Girls Test Track Group 2

Jillian Smart—1<sup>st</sup>

### Preliminary Girls Test Track Group 4

Ashley Tivnan—3<sup>rd</sup>



# Competition Results

## Preliminary Girls Free Skating Group 1

Erica MacSweeney—2<sup>nd</sup>  
Faith Olivia Graves—3<sup>rd</sup>  
Jessie Liu—5<sup>th</sup>

## Preliminary Girls Free Skating Group 2

Nikki Montanaro—1<sup>st</sup>

## Adult Gold Ladies Free Skating

Suzanne Garcia—1<sup>st</sup>

## **4th Colonial Adult Winter Challenge**

Boxborough, MA—March 17, 2012

## Masters Intermediate-Junior Ladies

Barbara Burley—3<sup>rd</sup> (26.81)

## Adult Gold Ladies I+II+III

Suzanne Garcia—3<sup>rd</sup> (24.15)

## Adult Silver III Ladies FS

Barb Fritz—8<sup>th</sup>

## Solo Dance Preliminary Dutch

### Waltz

Jennifer Rand—4<sup>th</sup>

## Adult Bronze Spins

Cynthia Jerrier—1<sup>st</sup>

## Artistic Dramatic Interp. Adult III+IV+V

Barb Fritz—2<sup>nd</sup>

## **2012 Connecticut Synchronized Skating Championships**

Middletown, CT—February 12, 2012

## Pre-Juvenile FS

Team Excel—7<sup>th</sup>

## Juvenile FS

Team Excel—4<sup>th</sup>

## Open Collegiate FS

Team Excel—3<sup>rd</sup>

## **2012 US Figure Skating Synchronized Championships**

Worcester, MA—March 1-3, 2012

## Collegiate

Team Excel—5<sup>th</sup> (74.62)

## **2012 Adult Eastern Sectional Championships**

Rockville, MD—March 9-11, 2012

## Championship Adult Gold Ladies Free Skate

Suzanne Garcia—7<sup>th</sup> (22.71)

# New Members

## *Family*

**Mr. August Baker and Ms. Caroline Apovien (John, Philip)**  
Waban, MA

**Mrs. Susan M. Green (Mykayla)**  
North Andover, MA

**Mr. Chanat and Mrs. Tracy Sangkagalo (Natalie)**  
Warwick, RI

**Dr. Douglas and Mrs. Julia Wooldridge (Sophie)**  
Dover, MA

## *Introductory*

**Mr. Mark and Mrs. Abigail Goodman (Rebecca, Hannah, Esme)**  
Cambridge, MA

**Ms. Colleen Maloney Hesser**  
Ashland, MA

**Mr. Lucas and Mrs. Robin Mandjes (Belle)**  
Cambridge, MA

**Ms. Karollyne Angelica Zortea**  
Newton, MA

## *Theatre on Ice*

**Miss Emily Gunderson**  
Duxbury, MA

## *Membership Changes*

### *To Family*

Mr. Stanley Eigen and Mrs. Jacqueline Baum  
Mr. George and Mrs. Margaret d'Arbeloff  
Mr. Joe and Mrs. Cathy Esposito  
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Ann Shaughnessy

### *To Single*

Lisa Rockefeller

### *To MetroWest*

Dr. Xiang Dong and Mrs. Muning Mi