

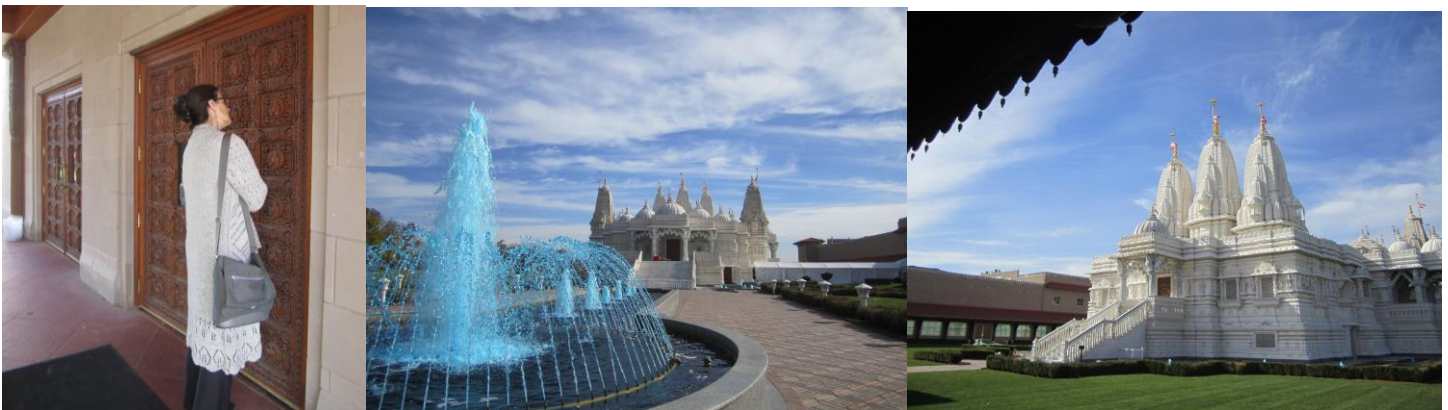


Chicago Ice Skate Trip Notes October 23-28, 2014

We call these trips marathons but they are marathons-on-the-butt as the events go from early morning to late at night. Pretty extreme? Yet I've committed and purchased tickets for the Worlds in Boston 2016! (Gotta go as World might not come to the US again for 7-8 years.)

Renewing friendship with my sister Beverly is a big draw. We really didn't know each other until recently when our folks passed away.

Luckily and lovingly I had some diversion. Not that I don't like the skating a lot but seeing two Chicago friends from much too long ago was an extra delight.



Annette is from my marathon days, a momma par excellence of a bunch of boys, and a 50-stater. She lives in Wheaton so first took me to BAPS, an amazing Hindu Temple where they were celebrating their New Years. The place would knock your socks off; it did me. See their website at <http://chicago.baps.org/>

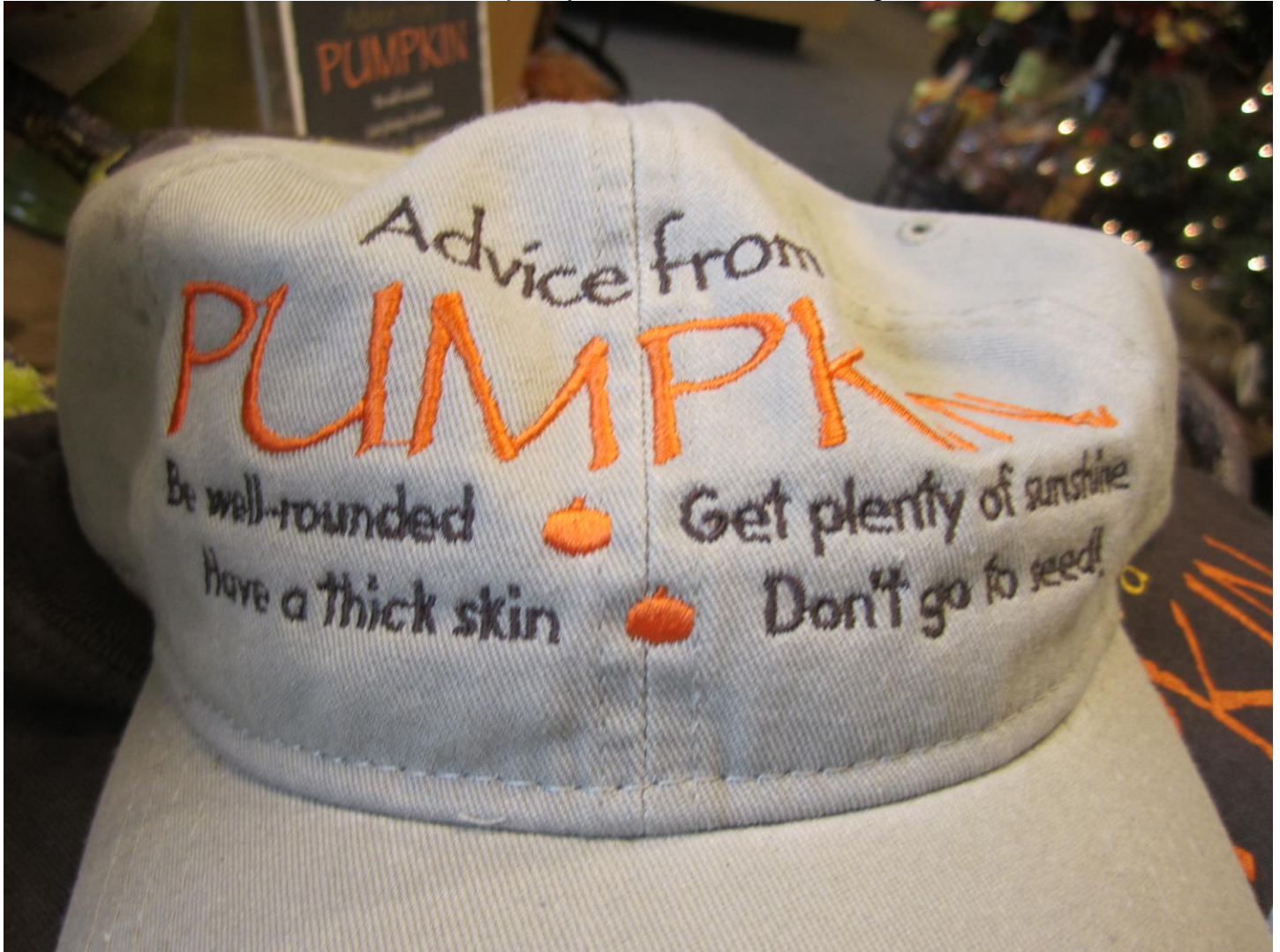


Then onto Cantigny, the McCormick center with one of the top ten museums in the country explaining the 'wars' plus gardens plus the opening of his estate and home. Surprise too! McCormick made his money first at the Chicago Tribune. See <http://www.cantigny.org/museums/robert-r-mccormick-museum>

Ginny is from my working days and then we continued the relationship having traveled together and I visited her second home in Door County too. She took Beverly and me to these perfect gardens at The Morton Arboretum where we spent the day and indulged in a delightful garden lunch.

Advice from a Pumpkin:

Be well-rounded, Have a thick skin, Get plenty of sunshine and Don't go to seed.



From Pumpkin-Rules-for-Life to Life-with-iPhones: Well, life must go on even for 60 year olds and not just the teens. Ginny had work to do. Beverly is attached to Facebook. I can't think of my excuse.





The big bennie for me was at the last there is the Exhibition Skating where all the winners get to come onto the ice and skate whatever they want. Without need to impress. Without the silly athletic stuff that's required. All fun and absolutely delightful. I won't miss this in Boston's Worlds 2016.



While the Russians really took the show, there were others that were very special too. I've been a fan of Jason Brown but not his silly farmer costume.

www.worlds2016 are in Boston late March into early April. We already have tickets! One would not expect the World Competition to come to the US again for 7-8 years.

Now I'm off to I don't remember where but it will be somewhere good.

Itinerary

Thu Oct 23 – Bev

6:00am Depart Columbia via AA#3576 (American Eagle using Envoy Air)
7:05am Arrive Chicago O'Hare ORD

- Diana

6:50am Depart Newark EWR via UA#219
8:20am Arrive Chicago O'Hare ORD

Hotel Chicago Marriott Northwest – 5 nights
4800 Hoffman Boulevard, Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 Tele: 847 645 9500

10:30am Official Practice (All Day) to 5pm

Pre-Event Hospitality Sessions

Friday, Oct. 24 – 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25 – 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Saturday, Oct. 25 – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 26 – 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Please enter using the main arena entrance, located beside the arena box office. The hospitality is located one level up in the Prairie View Lounge lobby area.

Upon entrance, we will have a check-in table with your name. At that time we will provide you the event program and pin (1/ea. per seat) and your drink vouchers (1 per session) to redeem in the hospitality area for any of the following, bottled water, soda, beer or wine.

Fri Oct 24

11:00am Official Practice

5:30pm Pre-Event Hospitality Session to 7:00pm

7:00pm Short Dance Competition

8:30pm Men's Short Program Competition

Sat Oct 25

9:00am Official Practice

10:30am Pre-Event Hospitality Session to 12:00noon

12:00noon Pairs Short Program Competition

1:30pm Ladies Short Program Competition

5:30pm Pre-Event Hospitality Session to 7:00pm

7:00pm Free Dance Competition

8:30pm Men's Free Skate Competition

10:00pm Award Ceremonies (Ice Dance & Men)

Sun Oct 26

9:00am Official Practice

12:00noon Pre-Event Hospitality Session to 1:30pm

1:30pm Pairs Free Skate Competition
3:00pm Ladies Free Skate Competition
5:00pm Award Ceremonies (Pairs & Ladies)
7:00pm Smucker's Skating Spectacular

Tue Oct 28 – Diana

6:00pm Depart Chicago O'Hare ORD via UA#1492
9:21pm Arrive Newark EWR

- Bev

6:35pm Depart Chicago O'Hare ORD via UA#3233
7:45pm Arrive Columbia

The Grand Prix Series, entering its 20th season, incorporates six international figure skating competitions as a unified point-scoring series that awards prize money to eligible skaters. At the conclusion of the series, athletes' points are totaled, and the top six ladies, men, pairs and ice dance teams are invited to compete at the 2014 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final. The Grand Prix Final is scheduled for Dec. 11-14 in Barcelona, Spain.

The complete list of athlete selections for the 2014 Grand Prix Series is available at www.isu.org.

2014 ISU Grand Prix Series - Entries

Ladies - http://isuprod.blob.core.windows.net/media/174799/gp_ladies_updated-oct14.pdf

Men - http://isuprod.blob.core.windows.net/media/174560/gp_men_updated-oct9.pdf

Pairs - http://isuprod.blob.core.windows.net/media/174713/gp_pairs_updated-oct13.pdf

Ice Dance - http://isuprod.blob.core.windows.net/media/174800/gp_dance_updated-oct13.pdf

2014 Hilton HHonors Skate America – Athletes invited to participate (subject to change)

Ladies

- Brooklee Han (AUS)
- Mae Berenice Meite (FRA)
- Elene Gedevanishvili (GEO)
- Haruka Imai (JPN)
- So Youn Park (KOR)
- Elena Radionova (RUS)
- Elizaveta Tuktamysheva (RUS)
- Joshi Helgesson (SWE)
- Natalia Popova (UKR)
- Gracie Gold (USA)
- Mirai Nagasu (USA)
- TBA (USA)

Men

- Jorik Hendrickx (BEL)
- Nam Nguyen (CAN)
- Chafik Besseghier (FRA)
- Alexei Bychenko (ISR)
- Tatsuki Machida (JPN)
- Dennis Ten (KAZ)
- Michael Christian Martinez (PHI)
- Artur Gachinski (RUS)
- Adian Pitkeev (RUS)
- Jeremy Abbott (USA)
- Jason Brown (USA)
- TBA (USA)

Pairs

- Cheng Peng & Hao Zhang (CHN)
- Maylin Wende & Daniel Wende (GER)
- Stefania Bertone & Ondrej Hotarek (ITA)

- Yuko Kavaguti & Alexander Smirnov (RUS)
- Tatiana Volosozhar & Maxim Trankov (RUS)
- Haven Denney & Brandon Frazier (USA)
- Alexa Scimeca & Chris Knierim (USA)
- TBA (USA)

Ice Dance

- Julia Zlobina & Alexei Sitnikov (AZE)
- Nicole Orford & Thomas Williams (CAN)
- Charlene Guignard & Marco Fabbri (ITA)
- Cathy Reed & Chris Reed (JPN)
- Ekaterina Bobrova & Dmitri Soloviev (RUS)
- Madison Chock & Evan Bates (USA)
- Maia Shibutani & Alex Shibutani (USA)
- TBA (USA)