



SILVER BLADE TOURS-2013 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

The skating season has begun and whether you attend a live competition or watch on television, excitement is in the air at the beginning of the pre-Olympic season. NBC, Universal Sports, and Ice Network will provide television coverage of the Grand Prix Series, U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Four Continents, Olympics, and Worlds. I will look forward to seeing many of you this season and thank you for choosing Silver Blade Tours, Inc.

POSTCARD FROM 2013 HILTON HONORS SKATE AMERICA-DETROIT, MI

Who would have thought that Detroit could be so exciting-the Red Sox/Detroit Tigers playoffs, the Detroit Marathon, and of course 2013 Hilton Honors Skate America, first Grand Prix event this season? Back to Joe Louis Arena for the third time and the arena hasn't changed and still no handrails! It certainly brought back memories from the "Whack heard around the world", as we passed by Cobo Arena scene of that attack on Nancy Kerrigan. The People Mover was great to ride on as we passed Greektown and the Greektown Casino, Joe Louis Arena, Cobo Arena, and other downtown stops along the way.

We began our tour of Detroit, with a drive through the city on our way to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. It was a beautiful autumn day as we toured through the museum and saw vehicles from early civilization to planes descending from the ceiling! Greenfield Village was quaint with homes and structures from all over the United States. Our All Day Ride pass let us choose between a horse and buggy, steam railroad, Model T, and mini bus tour of the Village. The streets were lined with pumpkins in anticipation of Halloween nights. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch served by costumed waiters at the Eagle Tavern.

Our VIP seats came with a hospitality pass, which made it quite pleasant to enjoy drinks and heavy appetizers prior to the competition. It was wonderful to watch the Pairs' event Caydee Denney and John Coughlin on their return to the competitive stage and placed fourth. Marisa Castelli and Simon Shapnir placed

5th. In Dance, we were all captivated by the first place performance of Meryl Davis and Charlie White. Maia and Alex Shibutani earned the bronze medal while Madison Hubbell and Zach Donohue skated to 4th place finish. Adam Rippon earned a silver medal and Max Aaron skated to a bronze medal finish. Jason Brown was thrilled to compete at his first Grand Prix event and came in 5th. Ashley Wagner earned her silver medal in the ladies event.

We had a wonderful time at the Friends of Figure Skating Breakfast. Skaters, Max Aaron, Jason Brown, Adam Rippon, dancers Maia and Alex Shibutani and Madison Hubbell and Zach Donohue were happy to mingle, have their photos taken, and sign autographs. Guest Doug Wilson, producer/director of ABC Sports spoke at the breakfast and showed the video Canvas On Ice. He gave us interesting insights on filming a skating competition. It is all about the skater and not just the camera shot!

POSTCARD FROM 2013 SKATE CANADA- SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK

Saint John, New Brunswick a quaint harbor town was sight of the 2013 Skate Canada Grand Prix event. Silver Blade Tours were made welcome on Uniworld's day tour of Saint John, the Reversing Falls, fishing village of St. Martins, Bay of Fundy, and the Fundy Trail. Autumn colors, lighthouses, covered bridges, and a walk on the shore of the Bay of Fundy were some of the highlights of this tour. Beautiful scenery included caves carved from the waves and sandstone cliffs offered awesome views of the bay. We have a great time at our "Maritime Kitchen Party" seafood lunch including lobsters, Canadian beer and wine!

In dance, Madison Hubbell and Zach Donohue captured their first Grand Prix bronze medal. It was a pleasure to give them my U.S. flag as they skated by at the medal ceremony. Gracie Gold earned the bronze medal while Christina Gao placed 4th and Courtney Hicks 6th. In Men's, Joshua Harris came in 5th and Jeremy Abbott 6th. In the Pairs' event, Haven Denney and Brandon Frazier earned 5th place and newly partnered Lindsay Davis and Rockne Brubacker came in 6th.

2014 PRUDENTIAL U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS BOSTON, MA

Silver Blade Tours is looking forward to returning to historic Boston for the 2014 Prudential U.S. Figure Skating Championships. The Boston Convention Center

is conveniently located across the street from our hotel, the *Boston Seaport and World Trade Center* located on Boston Harbor. Take time to visit the "Cradle of our Nation"- historic sites, the Freedom Trail, museums, Chinatown, neighboring Lexington and Concord, and the North End. It is the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. I know that Boston will certainly have the welcome mat out for us. It is especially exciting to attend this competition weeks prior to the Winter Olympics.

Silver Blade Tours will continue to keep you updated on future tours by email and our website. You will find Silver Blade Tours on Face Book which features photos from current and past skating tours.

We look forward to returning to Greensboro for the 2015 U.S. Figure Skating Championships and to St. Paul, MN for the 2016 U.S. Figure Skating Championships.

The World Figure Skating Championships returns to the United States to Boston, MA! It is always exciting when Worlds is at home. Silver Blade Tours is already accepting deposits for this competition. More information will be provided as soon as ticket prices are finalized.

Thank you for your continued patronage of Silver Blade Tours, Inc. We have enjoyed all of the friendships made throughout the years. It has been a pleasure to offer you the best we can and enjoy the sport that binds us all together.

May you have a blessed holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

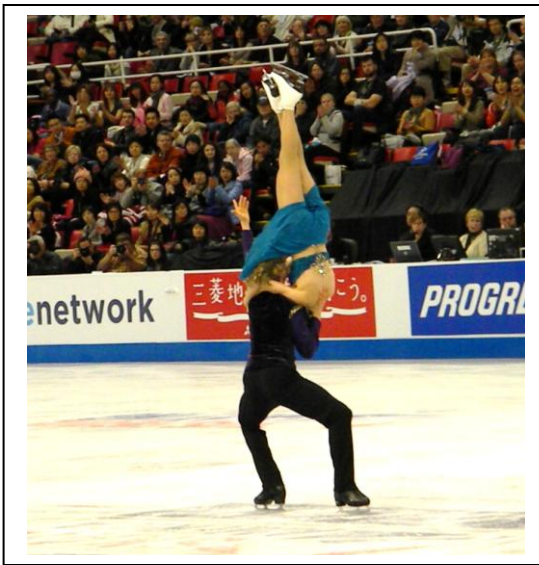
All the best,

Claudyne Cassella Hutchinson & Victor F. Cassella



International FS Classic-Salt Lake City, UT

2013 Skate America –Detroit, MI



2013 Skate America-Detroit, MI



2013 Skate Canada-Saint John, New Brunswick



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