

A PASSION FOR SKATING

Betty Wasserman is fearless, and blessed with boundless energy.

One of the few people whose talents encompass both “left brain” and “right brain” activities, Betty is profoundly creative, with a vision that incorporates her eye for detail. Thinking outside the box, she regularly inspires those around her to challenge their assumptions. At the same time, she is extraordinarily-organized and structured. When Betty gets involved, things get done.

Betty helms a renowned interior design studio, where she has created the environments in locations as diverse as a 432 Park Avenue penthouse, homes in the Hamptons, and some of the coolest New York City restaurants. Her warm and distinctive approach synthesizes her decade as a private art dealer with her literacy in architecture and design.

Betty began skating as a child, but her love of ponies led to a 25-year run as a competitive horse show jumper. Betty owned and trained horses both here and in Florida, and competed on the national stage, to significant success. Betty learned early in her daughter Milly's life, however, that Milly was allergic to horses, but incredibly drawn to skating. In supporting her daughter's passion, Betty developed one of her own, learning the intricacies and nuances of competitive skating with the same attention to detail that she had with her own sport.

Since joining Ice Theatre's board, Betty has become deeply involved in all aspects of Ice Theatre: She meticulously-designed the interior environment and service flow for several Ice Theatre Galas and Spring Fling (Unplugged) events. Betty motivated and helped fund the revival of our now-highly-successful Junior Ensemble, in which her daughter Milly has become a leader and choreographer. Betty brought us new board member candidates, who added needed expertise and vibrancy to our Board. Betty makes Ice Theatre think smartly about the value of its product, and about new ways to raise funds. Betty organized and found items for our Silent Auction, and coordinated all aspects of our first Live Auction.

And, fearless as she is, Betty has been a leader in identifying and soliciting new donors in businesses that had not previously known about Ice Theatre, resulting in a substantial and continuing infusion of donations.

As Milly's skating journey has unfolded, Milly and Betty work to inject creativity into all aspects of Milly's presentations, within the boundaries of the rules. Betty regularly travels to competitions at all levels of skating, and has befriended promising coaches and skaters alike. Her friendship with Kaitlyn Weaver led to a wonderful piece and performance by Kaitlyn in Ice Theatre's Pivoting Through The Pandemic event last year.

Betty told us, “As much as Ice Theatre is letting me know with this award that they appreciate me, I want Ice Theatre to know how much I appreciate all of them. I feel thankful to be part of Ice Theatre's avante-garde approaches and creative spirit, bringing art to the ice in a way that is unlike any other. I appreciate how Ice Theatre allows skaters to express themselves outside of a competitive format, and I am especially grateful for the opportunities that Ice Theatre has offered to Milly and me.”

Ice Theatre today is a stronger, more-productive organization because of Betty Wasserman's passion, contributions, and wise counsel over the past six years. Ice Theatre is delighted to recognize Betty as an Ice Angel.