

# Garden State Skating Club

## Newsletter

Produced by GSSC Junior Board

### Star on Ice: Emily Nesson

By: EMILY CHANG, *Editor-in-Chief*



Emily Nesson, a longtime Garden State Skating Club (GSSC) member, had been skating since the age of four. She graduated from Holmdel High School last June with a myriad accomplishments under her belt: a National Merit Commended Scholar, a member of National Honor Society, and VP of the French Honor Society. She also held leadership positions in Key Club, Children of Impoverished Nations Club, and the Figure Skating Club. Nesson received a

varsity letter and medal upon graduation representing Holmdel High School figure skating.

Nesson also accomplished many things as a figure skater. Her coaches, Adriana Ryan and Steven Rice, have been with her through it all. They trained her to not only be a skilled figure skater, but also to be a good sport and to act professionally on and off the ice. Under their guidance, Nesson is an eight time regional competitor and four time finalist as well as a U.S. Figure Skating Double Gold Medalist. This past spring she was given a Graduating Senior Award from USFS and a Collegiate Membership from GSSC.

GSSC has always been Nesson's home away from home, allowing her to meet some of her closest friends and form life-long relationships. It is also through the GSSC Junior Board that she has been able to give back to the club as both a leader and volunteer at club and community service events. She has served as President, Vice President, and Social Media Chair.

Nesson is attending NYU and intends to pursue law along with the goal of becoming a globally aware and conscious individual.

**We wish Emily every success in her future endeavors!**



#### **2018-2019 Junior Board Officers**

<b>Emily Chang</b>	<b>Paige Ruggeri</b>
President	President
Editor-in Chief	Event Planning

**Noelle Zavattieri**  
Secretary

#### **Junior Board Members**

Gwen Afanasewicz  
Camryn Aprilante  
Evelyn Jones  
Anna Merlino  
Sophia Newman  
Alexei Novojilov  
Syena Schaad

#### **Junior Board Advisor**

Christine Merlino  
GSSC Secretary

**Welcome  
New GSSC Members!**  
**We are happy to have you!**

Sophia Newman  
Aurelia Pellegrini  
Elizabeth Richardson

## GSSC Participates in Community Service Events

by: ANNA MERLINO, *Staff writer*

The Garden State Skating Club Junior Board participates in many community service events and fundraisers, supporting various different causes. Even though the events differ in type ranging from exciting parade marches to raising money for a cause, they are all fun and show GSSC's willingness to lend a helping hand as well as promote our club.

At our annual Shore Skate competition held in the Howell Ice Arena on April 14th, Junior Board members set up a table in order to increase awareness of autism in our community. Donations were accepted for this meaningful cause. Cupcakes and t-shirts were also provided to thank participants for their support.



Our skating club also participated in the Farmingdale Memorial Day parade on May 28th, in observance of this special day. We waved American flags and passed out beaded necklaces in patriotic colors as we marched through town to show our support. To promote our club and get others interested in skating, we displayed a club banner.

A third event that club members volunteered at was the Nicole's Heart Foundation 5K race on June 23rd at Thompson Park in Lincroft. This event helped raise money in the name of a girl named Nicole Trott who died due to a heart defect. The Nicole's Heart Foundation promotes cardiac screenings for high school athletes. We helped set up food and water bottles, organized goody bags, and cheered the runners on.

Despite each event being different, they are all incredibly impactful. The Junior Board hopes to continue to actively participate in many worthy causes for its local community in the months ahead.



# Skaters Compete at Shore Skate Basic Skills Competition

by: SYENA SCHAAD, *Staff writer*

The Garden State Skating Club held its 11th annual Shore-Skate Basic Skills Competition on Saturday, April 14th. This was one of the first competitions of the season and for some skaters, their first competition ever. Competing at Shore-Skate helps skaters build confidence and prepares them for upcoming competitions.

Not only do skaters perform their programs, but they also have the opportunity to compete in spins and jumps challenges, which were offered at the No-Test and Preliminary levels. These challenges allow skaters to participate in more than one event at the competition. Camryn Aprilante really enjoyed the jump competition,



challenge should be in all competitions.”

The annual Shore Skate Basic Skills Competition was a huge success, allowing skaters to show off their skills at the start of the season. Congratulations to all of the GSSC skaters!



Skaters from left to right: Gwen Afanasewicz, Evelyn Jones, Noelle Zavattieri, & Anna Merlino

explaining that “it was fun to be able to compete without having to worry about a whole program and just do jumps, which I think makes the competition a lot less stressful.” Noelle Zavattieri agreed and said, “I think that the spins



Coach Caroline Nikola with her skaters- Portia Castellano, Brooklyn Pagonis, and Layla Gramiccioni



Left to right: Noelle Zavattieri, Anna Merlino, Gwen Afanasewicz, and Francesca Olivieri

# 2018 Shore Skate Competition Results

by: SYENA SCHAAD, *Staff writer*

## **Basic 3 Program**

Sabrina Roselli - 1st Place  
Viktoria Lastivka - 3rd place

## **Basic 6 Program**

Portia Castellano - 2nd Place  
Carmella DiMaggio - 3rd Place  
Brooklyn Pagonis - 4th Place

## **Free Skate 1 Program, Group A**

Annabel Zheng - 1st Place  
Maren Vaclavik - 2nd Place  
Millena DeGaetano - 3rd Place  
Layla Gramiccioni - 4th Place

## **Free Skate 1 Program, Group B**

Adriana Stulic - 1st Place  
Racheal Gaynor - 2nd Place

## **Free Skate 4 Program**

Vivian Reid - 2nd Place

## **No Test Well Balanced Free Skate**

Ava Pettigrew - 1st Place  
Chloe Rubin - 2nd Place  
Anna Merlino - 3rd Place  
Patrick Coyle - 4th Place  
Evelyn Jones - 5th Place  
Mackenzie Kilcullen - 6th Place

## **No Test Jumps Challenge**

Chloe Rubin - 1st Place  
Julianne Wong - 2nd Place  
Evelyn Jones - 3rd Place  
Mackenzie Kilcullen - 4th Place

## **No Test Spins Challenge**

Julianne Wong - 1st Place  
Mackenzie Kilcullen - 2nd Place  
Chloe Rubin - 3rd Place  
Evelyn Jones - 4th Place

## **Pre-Preliminary Test Track Free skate**

Julianne Wong - 1st Place  
Francesca Olivieri - 2nd Place  
Lauren Schober - 4th Place

## **Pre-Preliminary Well Balanced Free skate**

Grace Wartmann - 1st Place

## **Pre-Preliminary Jumps Challenge**

Gracie Wartmann - 1st Place  
Anna Merlino - 2nd Place

## **Preliminary Well Balanced Free Skate**

Hannah Grace Snyder - 1st Place  
Gwen Afanasewicz - 2nd Place  
Noelle Zavattieri - 3rd Place

## **Preliminary Jumps Challenge**

Hannah Grace Snyder-1st Plac  
Noelle Zavattieri - 2nd Place  
Gwen Afanasewicz - 3rd Place  
Camryn Aprilante - 4th Place

## **Preliminary Spins Challenge**

Hannah Grace Snyder-1st Plac  
Gwen Afanasewicz - 2nd Place  
Camryn Aprilante - 3rd Place  
Noelle Zavattieri - 4th place  
Anna Merlino - 5th Place  
Gracie Wartmann - 6th Place

## Skaters Enjoy Lake Placid Summer Camp

By: CAMRYN APRILANTE, *Staff Writer*

This year, four members of the Garden State Skating Club traveled to Lake Placid, New York for an intensive summer training camp. The camp consists of high level coaching, on and off ice classes, two skating shows, and lots of skating! The attending GSSC members were Maren Vaclavik, Evelyn Jones, Syena Schaad, and Camryn Aprilante.

While in Lake Placid, skaters have the opportunity to take private lessons from high level coaches, including Paul Wylie, Evelyn Kramer, and Scott Brown. Paul Wylie was the 1992 Olympic silver medalist. Evelyn Kramer, also known as “The Spin Doctor,” offers her international and Olympic experience to skaters at the camp. Lastly, Scott Brown, a coach of many Olympians, uses his professional choreography to create and enhance skaters’ programs.

Throughout the week, skaters have a variety of on-ice and off-ice classes to choose from. Some on-ice classes include basic spins, power skating, flying spins, combination jumps, how to be a choreographer, edge class, wow factor, and musical interpretation. Off-ice classes includes barre, cardio dance, conditioning, core and more, morning stretch, off-ice edge platform class, trampoline, and yoga stretch. Each on-ice class is 25 minutes long and the off-ice classes are generally 45 minutes.

At the end of each week, skaters can participate in two shows. The first one, “Freaky Friday”, is an entertainment based competition where skaters can show off their moves and creativity in a group number or a solo performance. The panel of “judges” evaluates each routine not on jumps and spins, but rather on style and creativity. The next night is the “Saturday Night Ice Show,” which has been a cherished Lake Placid tradition since 1932. This show gives skaters a chance to show off their programs under the spotlight. Two performances from a special guest skater are also featured each year. This year’s guest skater was Andrew Torgashev, the US junior champion and two-time world junior competitor. The night ends with a group number featuring all skaters that took part in the show.



Syena Schaad & Camryn Aprilante perform at Lake Placid



Evelyn Jones, Maren Vaclavik, Syena Schaad & Camryn Aprilante perform at Lake Placid

During the limited downtime a skater has, Lake Placid has a lot to offer. You can take a relaxing gondola ride to the top of Little White Face Mountain unless you are afraid of heights. Other options include touring the Olympic ski jump, going for a swim in the lake, hiking around High Falls Gorge, or shopping in the Olympic Village.

The Lake Placid Summer Intensive Training Camp is an amazing opportunity for skaters of all ages and abilities to take their skating to the next level. Every skater is sure to return home with new skills and memories that will last a lifetime.

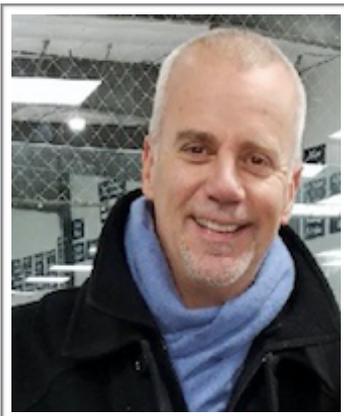
## Freestyle Clinics with Coach Steven Rice

By: NOELLE ZAVATTIERI, *Secretary & Staff Writer*

Every Wednesday for the past five weeks, Coach Steven Rice teaches a 30 minute clinic for GSSC skaters. Skaters learn the proper techniques for spin positions, jump take-offs and landings, and IJS rules. Learning about the IJS judging system is incredibly important to skaters as it is the system that will be used to judge them once they reach higher levels. The clinics allow skaters to learn new skills while having a great time with their friends.



Coach Steven says, “I love sharing the knowledge I’ve learned from all my past coaches and my training and experience in the IJS judging system. Passing it on to the other skaters and coaches and giving them new information is exciting for everyone included.” He has been teaching freestyle clinics and seminars for over 20 years. He has spoken for the PSA and USFSA and has conducted seminars about the IJS system all over the U.S. and even Asia. “From my knowledge of the IJS system, I have been honored to work with many past Olympians from all over the world such as Emily Hughes (USA), Nobunari Oda (Japan), Daisuke Takahashi (Republic of Georgia), and Adam Rippon (USA) to name a few,” he added.



“Attending any type of clinic or seminar is always rewarding in one way or another. There is always new information that a skater can learn and it is also a fun setting to be around other skaters who are sharing the same experience. Everyone is working together to achieve the same goal- a true team effort!”



# Skaters Perform in Annual Summer Exhibition

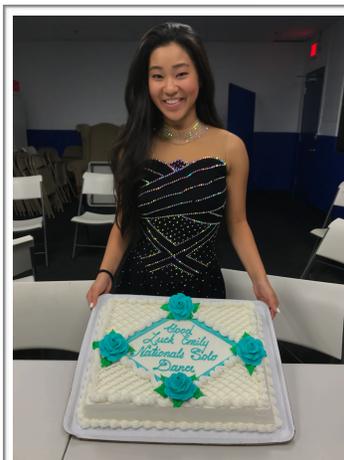
By: GWEN AFANASEWICZ, *Staff Writer*



Performers from left to right: Sophia Newman, Noelle Zavattierei, Camryn Aprilante, Viktoria Lastivka, Syena Schaad, Paige Ruggeri, Emily Chang, Sofia Cipriati, Chloe Rubin, Evelyn Jones, Gwen Afanasewicz, Portia Castellano, and Francesca Olivieri

On August 15, GSSC held its annual Summer Exhibition at Howell Ice World. Skaters had the opportunity to showcase their programs in a relaxed environment, as well as prepare their routines for upcoming competitions. This fun show, displaying their skills and talents. The show opened with Paige Ruggeri's wonderful junior freestyle routine, and closed with Emily Chang's junior free dance program.

The show also served as a qualification for the National Solo Ice Dance Championships. We wish her luck at Nationals which will take place in Cape Cod in September. She and the other skaters enjoyed pizza and cake, everyone's accomplishments. The Summer Exhibition was entertaining and fun and we all look forward to next year's show!



Emily Chang along with GSSC members celebrate her National Solo Dance qualification

# GSSC Enjoys Memorable Awards Banquet

By: PAIGE RUGGERI, *President & Staff Writer*

The Garden State Skating Club's annual banquet was held on March 12 at the Waterview Pavilion in Belmar, NJ. The banquet had an Olympic theme, which fit the celebration perfectly as the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang was just coming to a close. The event is always a great time for the club to come together and celebrate the skaters' accomplishments from the past year. Everyone always

loves getting dressed up and seeing one another outside of the ice rink.



A number of skaters received awards and pins for their tests passed in the 2017 season. Coach Alicia received the Kuykendall Award for being someone who has always contributed her time and talent to the GSSC as a skater and a

coach. Noelle Zavattieri was awarded the Catherine D. Morocco Award, as she has shown great sportsmanship to all members on and off the ice. The Francis Spatcher awards went to Emily Chang (1), Paige Ruggeri (2), and Gabrielle Brandt (3). These skaters received the award based on total points accumulated for tests



Gwen Afanasewicz and Anna Merlino

taken and competition placements during 2017.

We also had certificates for all our skaters who represented the club at North Atlantic Regionals this past year in Hackensack, New Jersey. Our clubs' regional skaters were Emily Nesson, Elizabeth Klemm, Paige Ruggeri, Megan Tso, Emily Chang, Tess McGuinness, Gabrielle Brandt, Alexei Novojilov, and Syena Schaad. Emily Chang received a certificate and grant for representing our club at the 2017 National Solo Dance Championships in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Paige Ruggeri, Gabriella Brandt and Alexei Novojilov also received certificates and grants for representing the club at



Emily Chang, Paige Ruggeri and Gabrielle Brandt earn the Francis Spatcher award

the 2018 Eastern Sectional Championships in Boxborough, MA. Paige Ruggeri received a certificate for representing the club at the 2018 US Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, California in the Novice Pair event.

The Garden State presentations for our coaches and family members. Klemm, Emily Nesson, and members of the club since they to hear about their individual accomplishments, and we wish of their lives.

The banquet was also Mrs. Brandt organized a families to try to win. Prizes handbags, jewelry, and free also enjoyed an afternoon full of lots of dancing. The banquet nice having the club come



Graduating seniors from left to right: Emily Nesson, Melody Tso, Victoria Huggan and Elizabeth Klemm

Skating Club had special graduating seniors from their Victoria Huggan, Elizabeth Melody Tso have been were very young. It was great journeys and them well in the next chapter

full of fun besides the awards! fabulous basket auction for ranged from Yankee tickets, lessons with coaches. Everyone delicious food, a great DJ, and was a huge success and it was together.



# Emily Chang Leads National Skating Month Event

By: EMILY CHANG, *President & Editor-in-Chief*

On February 3, Emily Chang led and organized a National Skating Month event, 'The Ice is Calling', to promote interest in skating and support US Figure Skating's annual celebration of the sport. As a Girl Scout Senior working towards her gold award project- the highest achievement in girl scouting, it was clear to Chang that she would use her passion in skating to address a community issue and she chose to tackle the growing global health issue of obesity in children. Chang wanted to attract and inspire new generations of skaters and educate her community of the myriad physical, mental and emotional health benefits that skating has to offer. Chang wanted to show families that skating is a fun and positive exercise for all ages and abilities and they can have a great time with friends and family while also getting a great cardiovascular workout without even knowing it.



Chang worked with GSSC and the Howell Ice Arena to host a two hour open house event. She recruited club coaches and members to teach half-hour group lessons. Following the free lessons, Chang organized a skating exhibition and had several of her club teammates perform their freestyle programs showcasing their many skills and talents. The skating show was then followed by an hour family skate session to encourage new skaters, young children and family members, to enjoy more skating. The event had a great turn out with more than 55

kids and adults participating in the event and everyone enjoyed a fun-filled day at the rink. The event not only increased local awareness and interest in skating but was also a great way to help kick off the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.



# Tests Passed

January 2018 -August 2018

By: EMILY CHANG, *Editor-in-Chief*

**Gwen Afanasewicz** - Prelim Moves, Prelim Free

**Camryn Aprilante** - Pre-Juv and Juvenile Moves, Prelim Free

**Emily Chang** - Novice Free Skate, Junior Free Dance

**Evelyn Jones**- Prelim Moves

**Alexei Novojilov** - Intermed Moves, Pre-Bronze, Bronze and Pre-Silver Dance

**Anastasia Novojilov** - Prelim Moves, Prelim Dance

**Anna Merlino** - Prelim Moves

**Francesca Olivieri** - Pre-Pre Moves

**Dylan Oster** - Pre-Juv Moves

**Paige Ruggeri** - Junior Free Skate

**Syena Schaad** - Intermediate Moves

**Noelle Zavattieri**- Pre-Juv and Juvenile Moves, Prelim Free Skate

# Congratulations!



## 2018 National Solo Dance Final

September 14-16, 2018

Hyannis Youth and  
Community Center  
Hyannis, Massachusetts

Good Luck Emily  
Chang!

PreGolds & Junior Free Dance

## 2019 North Atlantic Regional Championships

October 17-21, 2018  
Lake Placid, New York

Good Luck!  
Paige Ruggeri &  
Syena Schaad



# PINK in the RINK

at the Howell Iceworld Rink



Purchase Pink Gloves and Laces every Wednesday & Saturday freestyle sessions throughout Oct

Skate to Show Your Support During Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Proceeds will go to the Scott Hamilton Cancer Cares Foundation

