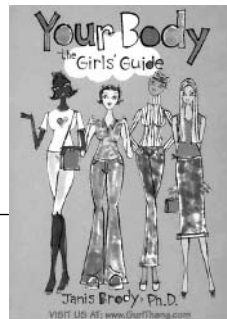


Dr. Janis Brody  
**Your Body:  
 The Girls' Guide**  
 (St. Martin's Press)



Janis' book is recommended by Publisher's Weekly, Jump Magazine, and Amazon's Top 10 Family List. Available on Amazon.com

If you would like to contribute stories or photos for consideration in our next newsletter, please contact:  
**CPDSA@earthlink.net**



DJ Moderno on the ones and twos.

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# CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION



**NEWSLETTER**  
 MAY/JUNE 2008  
 VOL. 14 ISSUE 1

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

- MAY 31: SATURDAY**  
Skating Day
- JUNE 1: SUNDAY**  
Skating Day
- JUNE 7: SATURDAY**  
Skating Day
- JUNE 8: SUNDAY**  
No Skating - Puerto Rico Day Parade
- JUNE 14: SATURDAY**  
No Skating - Park Event
- JUNE 15: SUNDAY**  
Skating Day
- JUNE 21: SATURDAY**  
Skating Day
- JUNE 22: SUNDAY**  
Skating Day
- JUNE 28: SATURDAY**  
Skating Day
- JUNE 29: SUNDAY**  
Skating Day

## The Hot Pink Rink

by Lezly Ziering

On March 22, 2008, Coney Island was the scene of the opening of *Lola Staar's Dreamland Roller Rink*, at the old Child's Restaurant building on 21st Street and the Boardwalk. The building had been vacant for half a century. An interesting coincidence of numbers here - Child's opened in '22, and the pink rink, on March 22 - a dream come true.

A whisper of the opening of a rink in Coney Island had been circulating for several months, exciting the imagination of the rink starved NYC skate community with the possibility of a home base. Upon investigating, I learned that the entrepreneur who seemed on the verge of making the rumor a reality was Lola Staar, proprietor of the Lola Staar

Souvenir Boutique on the Boardwalk.

Lola, to my great surprise, turned out to be a former student, known to me as Dianna Carlin who attended my skate classes several years ago. She had always been fascinated with roller skating and as the founder of the *Save Coney Island Organization*, her vision was to open a roller rink there on the Boardwalk. She said "My idea is to save the spirit of Coney Island and the rink will do that and bring something positive to the community."

That fantasy was brought to fruition by the "Make a Dream Come True" competition sponsored by *Tommy Hilfiger* and *Glamour Magazine*. She

entered her dream and won.

The opening party was glitz and glitter galore with attendees from all over the spectrum, whirling and rollicking under the ceramic eyes of a terra cotta relief of King Neptune. There was a wide variety of skaters of all ages, shapes and skills, stilt walkers, hoola hoopers, dancers, punk rockers, the Gotham Girls Roller Derby Team, a magician, acrobats, everyone decked out in outrageous fashions and costumes in a multitude of colors and styles, not to mention a number of police and firemen who appeared caught up in the magic of the moment. A phalanx of photographers and video cameras recorded the festivities for posterity.

(Continued on page 2)

## CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**JOIN US!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Contribution:**

\$15    \$25    \$50    \$100    Other \_\_\_\_\_

New Member    Renewal

Please cut out this membership application and mail it, along with your contribution, to the CPDSA address below.

You can get additional applications and more information from Lezly Ziering at the CPDSA Skate Circle, located mid-park at the foot of the bandshell. You can find us by entering Central Park at 72nd street and walking along Olmsted Way toward the center of the park. Just follow your ears. Listen for our dance music. You can't miss us.



**CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION**  
 14 Washington Place, #11F  
 New York, NY 10003  
 (212) 777-3232

### THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2007 from April 8th through October 28th. The music plays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

### OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS

**Lezly Ziering** 212-777-3232  
**Bob Nichols** 212-246-1344  
**On the Web** www.CPDSA.org  
**E-mail** CPDSA@earthlink.net

### CPDSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lezly Ziering, Chairman  
 Bob Nichols  
 Duane Reid  
 Darryl Thomas  
 Mark Wolf  
 Vera Sinnreich  
 John Waters  
 Tyrone Cloud  
 William VanKaes Harrison



Opening day of the CPDSA 2008 season!

© 2008 DJ Julio

The festive atmosphere of the rink made one almost forget its defects – small by our standards about 50' x 100' – it had a plastic modular floor with a flaw – a bit of a hump that extended for several feet at one end of the skating surface and which caused a few spills till the skaters got used to it. But I do believe a good time was had by all – a great party!

There was an appearance by Grammy Award winner Ashanti and a cameo and by the friendly and approachable Oscar winning actress, Marissa Tomei, who got down and dirty with a hoola hoop and who seemed to be having a blast. There were performances by a dance group and the Lola Staar Skaters among whom was our own Nicola Barber. A featured skate by the talented Lynna Davis closed

the show.

Lola's plan was to have a well-publicized opening blowout – make a big splash – then close down for a week or two to iron out any problems that were bound to arise, having opened so quickly on a shoestring; and reopen with all the rough edges ironed out.

Weeks passed and no news was forthcoming. I stayed in touch with Lola who explained that she was not giving up by any means, but that problems arose with the insurance for the building itself, that the backing of *Hilfiger* and *Glamour* was for the gala party only and she needed to raise money to deal with the legal minutiae and meet the sundry expenses inherent in running a rink in the Big Apple.

Just when I began to wonder if Lola's vision was a pipe dream after all, I had a call from her saying that she anticipated being able to reopen the *Dream-*

*land Rink* in late June or July and a subsequent e-mail stated that she has overcome many obstacles in obtaining permits and insurance for the rink, but she is still dealing with exorbitant costs essential to the reopening of *Dreamland*. She went onto say that "after some generous donations we are very close to being able to reopen.... but we aren't quite there yet! Hence, we need your help to reopen the fabulous *Dreamland Roller Rink*."

So if you are interested in learning more, or if you or someone you know wishes to donate to her cause, or if you want to see the photo album or video of that fabulous one night fantasy skate, you can visit Lola Staar's web site: <http://www.dreamlandrollerrink.com>

Lola you are in my prayers - my hat's off to you – you're a gal with guts and gumption and I think you might just bring this off!!!

## The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols

Every year the Skate Circle is a little different. This year there are a few changes, small things that are not readily apparent to the casual visitor. The die hard park skaters who are out in the park year-round have seen the changes, voiced their opinions and taken it all in stride. The regulars know we are trying to offer the safest environment for dance-skating possible, and they are doing their part to find creative ways to let the dance party rock while keeping it safe for skaters to roll.

Over the past few seasons, small changes had huge repercussions and unintended consequences. When the DJ and the speakers were turned west, the attention of the Circle focused into the small area between the booth and the path where spectators gather.

Starting with a few skaters showing off their best moves for a few seconds and then continuing around the rink; it grew to include dancers playing to the crowd. Soon, there were three rows of people milling around, some who just leaned on the barricades staring at the DJ, a few dancers and skate-dancers fighting for space, but mostly people standing around watching, talking, posturing, taking pictures...doing everything but dancing.

The usable rink area constricted to less than half its width, because it had become a stage and the spectators behind the ropes were the audience. The people in the "show" lost sight of the primarily purpose of the Skate Circle as a place to roller-skate. Complaints about congestion around the booth kept rolling in from long time skaters - dues-paying members of the CPDSA. There were accidents and injuries and we struggled to

keep it safe. To make things worse, a number of people were bringing in canvas folding chairs and setting them up in the dance area north of the DJ booth. By the end of last season, there was a long line of chairs, with bags and food and drinks on the ground and there was hardly any room to dance or skate.

To correct these problems, the DJ now faces North into the dance/skate area. We have asked our skaters and dancers to move themselves back into the dance areas to keep the rink open. A few skaters still linger in the west area to show off their moves, but the focus has changed. There is no "stage." Dancing has moved to the areas north and south of the booth and the Circle is more of a "theater in the round"...at least that's what we would like to see. It can work if you help.

Many thanks to DJ Jay Stewart for keeping the Winter Circle rolling for the diehard skaters, like Leroy, Janis, Beth and James who kept the park skating tradition alive every weekend day that was remotely skatable. Nick's after-party kept the dancing hot even on the coldest days.

Early this year CPDSA Engineer "Segway" Bill Levy announced that he and his wife, Patricia, were moving to Arizona. Bill has been a major asset for the Skate Circle over the years. He engineered and maintained the extremely rugged sound system that has been the basis for the CPDSA's audio since we began in 1995. For many years Bill took responsibility for setting up the DJ booth and the sound system every day that the CPDSA was in the park. We all owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for


his technical expertise, hard work and dedication to the Circle in fair weather and foul. Thank you, Bill.

We must also thank DJ Julio for sharing his knowledge of electronic gear and his guidance in helping the CPDSA put together our new DJ console. We believe that this new, more professional configuration will simplify our sound system and make it easier for DJs to con-

nect their ever more sophisticated equipment into our system.

I should mention the rest of the team who set up, and break down the sound system every day we play - our new chief engineer William and the audio crew: Tom, Alicia, Big Ed, John and Stan. Rounding out the crew are Tall blond Ken, Ed the Photographer, Muscle Ed, Tyrone, Chris and Maria.

The Skate Circle Lives!



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<p><b>Beginner Classes</b>  <b>INDOOR TECHNIQUES</b>                  \$80.00                  for 4 week course at Mercer Playground Sat. 11:00am-12:15</p>	<p><b>Beginner Classes</b>  <b>OUTDOOR TECHNIQUES</b>                  \$80.00                  for 4 week course weeks 1 &amp; 2 at Mercer Playground Sat. 12:30-1:15pm weeks 3 &amp; 4 at Central Pk. Sat. 1:30-2:15pm</p>	<p><b>Mixed Levels</b>  <b>DANCE ON SKATES</b>                  Sat. 8:00-9:00pm At Roller Jam USA in Staten Island  <b>\$20.00 includes class &amp; entry to skate session following the class</b>                  9:00pm-1:00am for directions go to <a href="http://www.rollerjamusa.com">www.rollerjamusa.com</a></p>
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William and Julio set up the sound system



DJ RC La Rock mans the turntables



DJ Jay Stewart and Leroy kept the Circle rolling all winter long



DJ Rob Scott rocks the crowd