



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 31: SKATE FRIGHT

The 4th annual Skate Fright Show celebrates the end of the CPDSA outdoor season.

CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gene A. Williams-President
Lezly Ziering-Chairman
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Bob Nichols
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SKATEFRIGHT 5 by Lezly Ziering

Skatefright is upon us and preparations are under way to make this a memorable event as we have in years past. We are delighted to announce that this year we have succeeded in persuading the Parks Department to hold our contests and show on Skaters Road, where bleachers will be set up for spectators.

Our show this year will be a winner, featuring Roger G, Bill Butler's Skate Company, the Central Park Skaters, our favorite Hustle champs Miguel Marerro and Stacey Redler - who just last month won top honors at Madison Square Garden. We are hoping to have Steve Love's N.Y. Express if they can fit us into their busy touring schedule. Also slated to appear are the Heavyweights, James Hunter - dancer extraordinaire, Joey and Boo and a cast of thousands - well - hundreds - well - a whole lot of folks anyway.

We will be open for skating from 11:00 AM. Costume and dance contests will start at 2:30 followed by the show which will last till 4:00 - followed by open skating. I hope that all of you will slip into the spirit of the day and come decked out in some holiday duds, masks, sparkles and phantasmagoric costumes, the best of which can win some of the prizes that will be up for grabs.

This brings me to our appeal to you, our skaters who have shared this fantastic season with us. Yes there have been some bumpy times and hassles, but let us not lose sight of the fact that we are a family, and what family does not have some strife and occasional dissension. I'd say that considering the size and var-

ied demographics of our family, on the whole we have had a smooth, affectionate and enjoyable season together. To continue to do this we must raise funds - we will have a table at the entrance to our venue where we will be able to sell T-shirts, pullovers, hats, buttons and memberships. Be generous and show us what this means to you. Help support the CPDSA.



DJ Rikky Rivera spinning records on a sunny Saturday in the Skate Circle.

"I Do"

by Monique Hawkins

Those were the words spoken by our very own DJ Jay Stewart and Tina Devlin on September 26, 1999 at the Astoria Old World Manor in Astoria Queens. Let's paint a picture. The chapel was elegantly decorated with large white bows attached to the pews

and oodles of flowers garnishing the length of a ledge just below the ceiling.

The maid of honor, Alice Garfinkel, and the bridesmaids made their entrance in a conservative, navy blue (Jay's favorite color), gown. Although the gowns were complimentary to each of the ladies in color and design, it was the ladies that completed the look with their own individualized style and beauty.

The fellas, one word, 'SHARP.' Tina's brother was looking quite dapper in his tux and meticulously coifed hair. You could not tell him that he was not looking good, for he knew it, and there was no shattering his

confidence. Now Jay's brother, "Mr. GG," was sharp and looking cleaner than the Board of Health, only to take a jump, to a dive, to a two-yard belly whopper to catch that garter. Football practice paid off that day.

Jay was the dap, dapper, dappiest of them all in his white Tuxedo jacket and black slacks. He appeared a bit nervous, but the joy prevailed and propelled him down the aisle to await his bride and to begin the first page in a new chapter of his life.

Then came the bride. Tina was very well put together from the top of her head to the tip of her train. Ribbons of hair were strategically tucked into a bun and accented by flowers across the top and her veil attached to the bottom. The gown was very elegant with its beaded, dropped back bodice and the balance in satin and the four to five foot train. As Tina proceeded down the aisle, she flashed that smile of hers and

lit up the chapel as joy oozed from her soul.

The multi-faceted ceremony was so beautiful and touching that it could have made you want to say 'I do' before the minister even asked. The ceremony included a candle lighting, exchanging of roses and a chain of kisses initiated by the bride and groom. Additional excitement came with the paparazzi scrambling for position to get pictures but Tina Freberg, the hired photographer, stood her ground. I got some great shots of Jay, Tina and Tina.

The reception was planned with style, elegance and with everyone in mind when it came to the menu. It was also action-packed. From the tossing of the bouquet & garter, the soul train line and the limbo, to Robbin doing the electric slide - cast, cane and all. She refused to let a broken leg keep her on the sidelines. I'm sure everyone believes that fun was had by all. I know 'I DO.'

Love in Libra

by Lezly Ziering

What are the chances, do you suppose, that in the first two weeks of Libra - within twelve days actually - that one might attend not one, not two, but three weddings of skaters. I do not mean casual skaters - I mean hard core, heart of our skate community skaters and let me tell you skaters make breathtakingly, beautiful brides.

On Sunday, Sept. 26, our own D.J. Jay Stewart and his oh-so-lovely bride, Tina, tied the knot. One week later, Sunday, Oct. 3, in Lennox, Mass., our orthopedic surgeon Scott Marwin (who has strapped sprains and splinted some bones in our Circle) and his stunning and regal bride Korina were wed. Then, four days later, on Thursday Oct. 7, our sound

engineer Bill Levy and his beautiful, spiritual soul mate Patricia, spoke their vows under blue skies just East of the Sheep Meadow on Skaters Roads - on skates - just the way I like it!

The ceremony was held at the Cramwell - a spectacular country club with eighteen holes of rolling golf greens - and a superb panoramic view. The groom was elegant and handsome in his formal attire and the bride was nothing short of ravishing (anyone who knows Korina will attest that she is a show stopper on a bad day - and this was a very, very good day) in her gorgeous gown. The ceremony was held under a chuppah and conducted by a Rabbi with a fine baritone - complete with the traditional sips

of wine, the exchange of rings and the not so traditional breaking of two glasses - one by the bride and one by the groom. The joyous ceremony ended with a tender kiss and some misty eyes were evident. On cue - the sun came out and smiled on the newlyweds and chasing the fog to reveal the magnificent Berkshires in the distance.

Hors d'oeuvres were served and we joined the handful of skaters that had come up for the ceremony - Mia, Kevin (who served as one of the ushers), Sonya, Jorge and Richie.

After drinks and snacks the party moved into the main ballroom where dinner was served and an excellent combo held sway for dancing and good listening. There were three really fine singers performing solos and duets. Scott

and Korina looked as though they just stepped off the wedding cake as they danced the first dance. Some of the traditional dances were performed - the newly marrieds were hoisted precariously into the air in chairs and paraded about. Korina tossed her bouquet which was caught by the tallest girl in the crowd who snatched it out of the air like an outfielder snagging a line drive. Scott's garter toss was caught by Richie (skater's reflexes?) and this young man gave a fine performance sliding that garter onto the bouquet recipient's leg.

It was a joyous and memorable wedding and an unforgettable dozen days. We want to wish Scott and Korina, Jay and Tina, and Bill and Patricia, long, happy and prosperous years of sharing and mutual devotion - may their marriages be blessed.

CPDSA and Dance Skating in Central Park, Our History Part 4 in a series of four on the history of Central Park Skating

by Allen Wardwell



In earlier Issues, this history has taken us from the advent of the Skate Circle, to the mayor's ban on amplified music, to the creation of the CPDSA to satisfy the city's, and the skaters' concerns.

With continuing discussions and help from some influential friends including Ronnie Eldridge and Ruth Messenger, it gradually became apparent that a compromise was in the works, and sure enough on July 4, 1995, we got a one day permit to play again. Our designated rink is just where it was twenty years ago when Parks moved us away from Bethesda. We had to agree not to exceed certain sound limits, keep the place clean, not allow the consumption of beer etc., enforce the helmet law for children under 14, not solicit funds except at approved events, and in general maintain order in a disco setting (not always easy). For the grand reopening, both

Commissioner Stern and Captain Bayer showed up, and Bayer was on skates! It was such a success, Parks extended the permit to cover Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 2:00 to 7:00 from mid-April to Halloween. The Parks Department even asked us to participate in the Skatefright event on Halloween, and so now we are collaborators, not antagonists.

Since then, we've improved on the equipment with a very sophisticated system and speakers on stands (so the sound is more localized to our area) which Parks allows us to store nearby during the week. [Through 1998,] Jay and Lee have been our standard jockeys, and the music has never been better. Sometimes we play stock tapes from the old days as well. Membership is well over a hundred, we have a board of trustees as well as a dedicated administrative staff, and it looks like our future is assured.

Being a part of this for so long, I, and I'm sure many others regard the group as an extended family. As any family does, we have had

members move away, get married, and have children. Sadly we've also suffered some deaths. Of these, I can fondly remember Eddie (aka Crazy Eddie), Freddie, and Eric. At the same time Lezly and Robbin got married (at the Roxy on skates no less with many of us there), and so did Gail and Steve who now show up with their child. Brent moved to Providence, Liz to Denver, Zee (not Blade Runner, the blonde girl who used to line dance with Sarah) to South Beach, and Eddie to Atlanta, but whenever they and others who have relocated are in town, where do you think they show up with their skates? And new people come and go all the time. It's been a great part of my life, and if you want to know one of the best parts of New York, come on over and bring your skates!

Allen Wardwell

This is the fourth and final installment of Allen Wardwell's history of skating on Skater's Road. Allen died early this year, his absence from the Skate Circle has been sorely felt by our family of skaters.

Lillies in the Park

by Monique Hawkins

The volleyball court never looked more beautiful than it did on Thursday, October 7, 1999. That's the day that Bill Levy and Patricia Payne exchanged their vows to love and cherish 'til death do they part.

Although I missed the ceremony, I was fortunate enough to have witnessed the trimmings of lilies, garland and bows. The volleyball net was replaced with garland laced with lilies. Some of the gate enclosures were

(Please turn to page 4.)



The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols

One of the things I love about the Skate Circle is all the friends I've met there. Some are people I wave to and try to slap a high five - on the beat - as we whirl past one another. Others are long standing friends of fifteen or twenty years. I may not know all the details of my many skate friends' lives, but I know a lot about their character by the way they skate. The way they react when there is an accident in the process of happening.

Some always seem to be the ones who are speeding past someone who ends up falling. Others are the ones who fall. If they are lucky enough, another kind of skater is there and is quick enough to steady the falling person and keep the accident from happening. And then there is the one who holds out a helping hand to the fallen, and there are two or three skaters who stop and direct traffic around a spill to keep more damage from occurring.


Skaters can fall. Even really good skaters. So, we help each other up and keep the circle spinning. Once in a while something happens to one of us that we can't take care of ourselves, a medical emergency when even Nurse Robbin can't do more than keep the patient comfortable until the ambulance arrives. Then we swing the gates open for the medics and keep the crowd back to give them room. We all work together to help; but we still need the EMS and the hospital to treat the injury.

What if someone falls and keeps on falling again and again? What do we do? Maybe, one of us goes over and helps with some skat-

ing advice. Like, "put your back-pack away so you can dance"! Or "bend your knees!" Or "keep your weight over your skates!" The kind of thing that can help a beginner progress to the next stage of control. Unfortunately, an emergency lesson is not always enough; if someone is so out of control that they endanger themselves and others, we've got to do something. We've got to ask them to leave.

Not because we're mad, not because we hate that person, not even because we don't want to get hurt ourselves. In the Circle, we try to stop people who repeatedly hurt themselves; we'll get them to rest and tell them stories of our own injuries to help them feel better about their clumsiness. We level with them, that it takes time and dedication to learn to skate dance and that you've got to start with the fundamentals - you've got to walk before you can run - you've got to learn basic skating principles before you can dance on skates.

We come out to the Circle to have fun, to meet people and dance to the music. We don't want to be serious, but none of us wants to see anyone get hurt, especially not a friend. So what do we do if one of our friends is drowning? Do we turn our heads away in embarrassment and pretend that we don't see them sinking, or do we reach over the edge and risk getting wet? When we see a person burst into flame, we're not doing them any favors by ignoring their plight. Even if we don't know exactly what to do, we call the fire department to put out the blaze; because sometimes we need expert help. We must do something ...



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The Nationals

by Lezly Ziering

As the artistic consultant for the N.Y. Express Roller Dance Co., the pleasant task fell to me to attend the National Artistic Roller Skate Championships, to scout some new talent for the company. On Sat., Aug. 7, my wife Robbin and I flew to Syracuse, N.Y. for the finals of the National (RSOA) competition. This event is the culmination of the many competitions held throughout the US and Hawaii each year. The winners of Nationals, in 5 categories (ladies' singles, men's singles, dance couples, pairs and the newest category - precision teams) will represent the US at Worlds later this year.

If you have seen Olympic ice skating competitions you will have a very good idea of what the Nationals entail. The skaters do a short program and a long program that have a specific set of mandatory requirements such as double and triple jumps, jump combinations, camels, various spins and patterns. Dance couples are restricted in the types of lifts they can do - no overheads - and must maintain contact throughout their program - emphasis on dance. Pair skaters do overheads, throws and unison jumps and spins as well as dance patterns. The final competition is the freestyle skate, which comprises the lion's share of their marks.

Our first stop was the Onendoga County War Memorial's huge facility where the Nationals had been under way for the better part of the week. We slipped in to watch the men's, dance couples and pairs long programs. Later, in the hotel, we rapped with precision skate silver medalists Shari Clark and Ryan Carillo - then we went back to Nationals.

If you ever have the opportunity to see skate competition on this level, don't miss it. It's spectacular. All the competitors are on quads (Snyder and Atlas plates dominant) with big fat toe plugs that are used for the take-off for various of the jumps. The soloists in both the ladies' and men's divisions danced to a wide variety of music from classic to popular with a little Slavic interlude to boot. The order of the day is who

can throw the cleanest double and triple jumps, as well as sit spins, lay backs - spins galore - and EVERYONE seemed to favor flying camels and camel heel spins.

For me the star of the evening was the 15 year old Afro-American diva from Texas, who took the gold in women's singles. Her lightning jumps and spins and quicksilver dance combinations were mature beyond her tender years and her performance was clean and artistically conceived.

The men were spectacular; the power and height they achieved in their aerial tours de force seemed to put the law of gravity on hold. The gold went to a young man with a triple triple triple combination of jumps and a near flawless freestyle dance. The dance couples were all so smooth and original, their precision and lifts so creative that I would have been hard pressed to say that this performance was an 8.9 and that a 9.8 - and though my favorite team only took bronze, I could see the team, whose portrayal of the Dracula legend copped the top honors, as winners just as easily.

The highlight of the evening, however, was the pairs competition. The couples were gorgeous, their costumes stunning and their routines were - well - anything but routine. They were beautifully choreographed with throw triples and unison double jumps and some of the most creative and unusual lifts and lift combinations that took this viewer into another realm. It was hard to believe that there could be not one, but six couples so striking in their physical beauty and at the same time so supremely talented. But all that aside, once again my choice for gold came in third - and I'll go to the wall on this one - the fix was in - we wuz robbed.

Through the course of the evening whenever I saw performers that I thought would work for the N.Y. Express, I would seek them out and give them information about the performance company. Only

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New Membership Chairperson

The CPDSA is very pleased to announce that Lisa Reich-Scholtisek has agreed to assume the duties of Chairperson of the Membership Committee. If Lisa runs the committee half as well as she skates, we are in very good hands. Lisa has a big job ahead of her just getting our membership list up to date and issuing membership cards to those who have not yet received them; but that is not her only goal.

Lisa also has a lot of good ideas about activities for CPDSA members to participate in, including winter skate trips and a discount for what she hopes will become a regular skate event at a rink in Massapequa, Long Island. She also wants to find a way to give CPDSA members an opportunity to speak for ourselves about skating issues and to suggest events we would like to see; so that we can have more input into the direction that the club is headed as we enter the next millennium.

The Nationals
(continued from page 3.)

once did I hand out material to someone I had not seen skate - and I said to her, "I haven't seen you skate, but for some reason I feel certain you should have this." The competition over, the medals all awarded, the final exhibition was announced (the last skate dance to be performed at National competition in this millennium) - and to the opening strains of "All That Jazz," guess who appeared in the spotlight with her infinitely talented partner to do the most sensational skate of the century!! You got it!!

The next morning Robbin and I returned to N.Y. with visions of gorgeous gals and graceful guys - gyrations and jumps and sequins and spins awhirl in our brains. Halfway through the flight we hit terrible turbulence. We bounced till I thought my nervous spouse would lose both her breakfast and her mind - but not a peep did I hear. When we landed I said, "were you scared?" With a self-satisfied smile she replied, "I loved every second of it - it was a blast!" Go figure!!

The CPDSA would like to thank
MINERAL SPRINGS

Lillies in the Park
(continued from page 2)

accented with jumbo cream and silver bows and others with swags of garland laced with lilies. It was all done by Zanne Ziering, (Patricia's best friend and Lezly's daughter-in-law).

Patricia wore a white A-line, scoop-necked dress with her trademark scarf (white), tied and draped down her back. Her hair was rolled on both sides and met with flowers in the back. Bill was looking pretty sharp in his gray double-breasted, pin-striped suit and his pony-tail that looked exceptionally curly and shiny that day.


As the bride and groom had their 'first skate' as husband and wife, we all looked on as they glided along on their skates with Bill's ponytail swinging and Patricia's scarf flowing. They looked as though they were so in love with each other. I didn't know that Bill could skate so well. He put some slick moves on us. I think it was the suit.

The wedding cake was replaced by three tiers of cup cakes (all made by Bill and Tricia) which

I felt was very creative and fit right into the park scene. There was also punch, again, made by the bride and groom. It was so good they must have mixed it with their fingers.

As the event began to wind down, Tricia and Bill passed out a tape of wedding songs and a miniature bottle of ginseng to each guest. It was beautiful that they baked the cupcakes, made the punch and recorded the tapes themselves because they wanted everything to keep everything simple and it was simply beautiful.

As usual in the park, clean-up time came around. Basically we all pitched in but some of us got lost in the hills and the valleys. All in all, Jay and Tina's wedding and Bill and Patricia's wedding were so different but equally beautiful.



See the Skate Circle on TV!
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New Member Renewal

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

You can get additional applications and more information from Gene Williams, Lezly Ziering or Robbin Ziering in person 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 the 72nd street transverse toward the center of the park. Just follow your ears. Listen for our booming dance music. You can't miss us.



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