



## EVENTS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Skating Day  
DJ Rikky Rivera

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Skating Day  
DJ Misbehaviour

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Skating Day  
DJ Jam  
COLUMBUS DAY

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Skating Day  
DJ Julio

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Skating Day  
DJ Walden

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

4:00 Start (Kids Halloween Party)  
DJ TBA

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Skating Day  
DJ Jam  
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

### THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2003 from April 11th to October 31st. The music plays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

### OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:

**Lezly Ziering:** 212-777-3232

**Bob Nichols:** 212-246-1344

Fax: 212-541-7871

**On the Web:** [www.CPDSA.org](http://www.CPDSA.org)

### CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lezly Ziering - Chairman

Bob Nichols

Bill Levy

Muhammed Abdul-Aziz

Alonzo Jones

Calvin Coleman

Carol Spalding

Steven Myrick

## Mo' 'bout Bill

by Lezly Ziering

Born in Detroit, the Motor City, in the waning days of 1933, Bill Butler turns 70 this year. Bill told me, "I put on skates at the age of 10 and haven't taken them off since." Even though Detroit is not below the Mason Dixon line, in the post World War II days - the late '40s and early '50s were not friendly to Blacks, said Bill. "We had to picket the rink to get one day for us to skate. When they finally gave in and gave us that one night, it was such a success, it ended up with the white folks having the one night." Bill taught himself to skate and soon developed his own style of skating he calls "Jammin'," which is also the name of the how-to roller skate book he authored, published by Simon & Schuster and now out of print

Butler was drafted at age 18, but a year later joined the Air Force. Stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska at age 20, he began

teaching his unique style of skating at the rink there. He remained in Alaska for 2 1/2 years and in 1957 was transferred to the Brooklyn Army Terminal - where he fell in love with the Apple - a love affair that lasted 46 years.

Billy B. soon found himself skating at the Empire Roller Rink - to piped in organ music. One night he requested they play "Night Train." That request turned around the music played at Empire from then on - Butler strikes again. Empire was the first NY rink that Bill called home base. He began teaching there and has subsequently taught at the Roxy, The Key and his crowning achievement - the magnificent Good Skates Rink in Port Jefferson which he designed and had built entirely to his specs. His Good Skates organization also had a great influence in promoting skating in Central Park, some quarter of a century ago.

Bill Butler's Skate Company has performed in this country and internationally and wherever his shadow falls, he has had a profound effect on roller skating, which he calls a child's sport. What do you mean, I asked. He said, "Skating appeals to the child in us - when you skate you leave behind your troubles and woes. You forget about bills and hassles and the work-a-day world and it's just you on your wheels and the music and at that moment you are a child again."

Do you have anything to add, I asked - a word of advice? Bill's message: "Unless you're going to skate by yourself in a basement somewhere, where you can't be a danger to yourself or other skaters - Learn how to skate!! It hurts me to see people faking it and skating with no sense of rink etiquette or consideration for other skaters!"



Bill Butler performing at the Skate Key roller rink in the Bronx in 1996.



Nelson tries to teach Marci to spin.

Photo ©2003, Darryl Thomas

# Thursdays at the Key

Thursday, Sept. 25th, kicked off a new, skater friendly, adult skate night at the Key Skating Center at 138th St. and the Grand Concourse in the Bronx. Now, don't let - the Bronx - put you off, the Key is very easy to get to whether you are driving or coming by subway. One stop past 125th St. on the 4 or 5 line is 138th St. Grand Concourse - and the rink is easily visible when you come upstairs just 2 short blocks from the station.

The Key is reaching out to the Central Park Skaters and is donating \$1.00 of every entry to the CPDSA to help us defray our ever-rising expenses. They are opening this new venue to appeal to our skaters - bringing DJ Rob Scott to spin for us. The affordable entry price of \$8.00 gives you some great skating in this huge rink that boasts a vastly improved sound system and a satin smooth skating floor. The Key will be open on Thursdays from 8:00 till midnight.

The opening night was a moderate success in terms of the turnout, but the music and the ambiance made it a resounding, successful triumph. We encourage you to visit the Key on Thursday nights - there are not too many win-win situations in life, but here is one for you - a great place to skate, super music, inexpensive, 15 minutes from 42nd Street, friendly atmosphere, and it helps to keep skating alive in Central Park - what a blast - need I say more?

## We are looking for new stories & photos!

If you are a CPDSA member interested writing an article or if you have any recent photos taken at the Circle that you would like to submit, please e-mail our editor at [marci@cpdsa.org](mailto:marci@cpdsa.org).

*I joined the  
**CPDSA...**  
...and I'm so glad  
that I did!!!*

*and I get to vote  
on the new  
DJ report card!*



## GRANDMA'S SECRETS

*For the taste that delivers!*

[www.grandmasecrets.com](http://www.grandmasecrets.com)

**(212) 862-8117**

640 W. 138th Street  
New York, NY 10031

[info@grandmasecrets.com](mailto:info@grandmasecrets.com)

*(Desserts by appointment only)*



Dr. Janis Brody

## Your Body: The Girls' Guide

(St. Martin's Press)

Janis' book has been recommended by Publisher's Weekly, Jump Magazine, and Amazon.com's Top 10 Family List



## Eye of the Needle Custom Upholstery

Residential/Commercial  
Restaurants/Theatres

In Business 35 years

Specialists in All Types of work  
& Repair  
Large Selection of Fabric

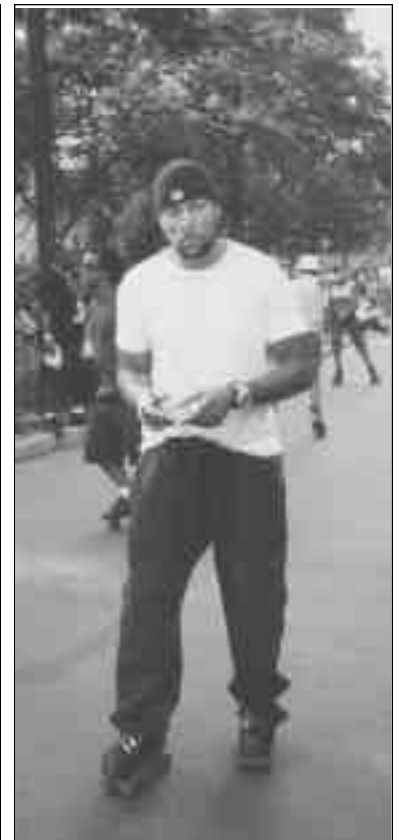
## Tariq

196 - 16 Hollis Ave.  
ST Albans N.Y. 11416  
Work Done at Factory  
**(917) 440- 6209**

Also Available

**Man with a Van  
Pick-Up & Delivery  
Moving**

24 hr. Service



What's on Derek's mind?

Photo ©2003, Darryl Thomas

# The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols

When I read Bill Butler's words quoted in Lezly's article in this newsletter, I was struck by their truth and wisdom about skating: "... it's just you on your wheels and the music, and at that moment you are a child again."

Just about sums it all up, doesn't it?

We come out to the park and put on our skates to play; to become like children again. If we have any secret, it is that skating is fun and makes us feel good. Does skating keep you young? I can't answer that, though I will mention that Lezly and Bill are both seventy and when you see them skate you know that each is in close touch with his own inner child.

Of course, even children have to learn to play by the rules; they start with the basic things like "don't hit"... "share your toys"... "play nicely," and gradually learn to make friends and earn the trust of others, until they eventually learn to have fun while respecting the rights of others. At the Circle, the golden rule is: to not do anything that will interfere with someone else's skating.

When we find the groove in the music and the flow of the other skaters, we make minute adjustments to accommodate one another. A couple dancing together gets a little extra room, because it's hard to do, and because we want to see them succeed in their dance. We learn to trust one another because no one wants to get hurt and we have to look out for each other in order to protect ourselves. A beginner or a small child will get a lot of extra room and not just out of kindness. They are the ones who are most likely to fall on or in front of you and the only ones so unschooled in rink etiquette that they would grab onto someone else when they are falling and pull the other skater down.

Common sense safety rules are one of the things that allow our childlike enjoyment of skating. Nothing brings out the responsi-

ble adult in us like an injury, our own or someone else's. Suddenly, we have to stop playing and take responsibility not just for our own actions, but for actions and the welfare of others. That is no fun! None of us wants to do it and that's why we all try to look out for and avoid potential problems by skating a tiny bit slower or finding an arc that takes us toward the solution and away from the problem.

Without a doubt, music is the most important element in dance skating. It is a rhythmic framework that allows us to synchronize our motion and at the same time music has a direct physical component - a power that imparts itself, wordlessly, to our senses and draws us into a playful or impassioned emotional state. The music makes or breaks the party.

That is where the difficulty lies; because no two people have exactly the same taste in music. The same song that sweeps you back to the joys of your teenage years might drop me into the pit of depression because in my mind it triggers associations of a bad time in my life. To complicate matters, we have an incredible variety of different musical genres available to us and a myriad of choices within each category. Our 21st century technology has made it easier than ever to bring an enormous musical library to the park for our skate parties.

Unfortunately, a huge selection of music does not insure a good time; it takes a talented DJ who knows the music and the needs of the skaters. It is the artistry and sensitivity of the DJ that makes it all click. The CPDSA has been very lucky to have attracted a roster of dedicated, talented DJs who volunteer their services to play the right music to help us forget our grown up cares and troubles for a few carefree hours when we can skate and dance and feel like children again.

The Skate Circle Lives!



Barry and Ida get lost in the music.

Photo ©2003, Darryl Thomas



## LEZLY SKATE SCHOOL

NY's #1 Inline & Traditional Rollerskate Specialists

- We have taught over 10,000 skaters since 1979
- Private & semi-private classes by appointment - all levels

**OUTDOOR**  
beginner classes  
\$65.00  
for 4 week course  
2 weeks at  
Mercer Playground  
& 2 weeks in  
Central Park

**INDOOR**  
beginner classes  
\$65.00  
for 4 week course  
Wednesdays at  
6:30pm  
at the Roxy

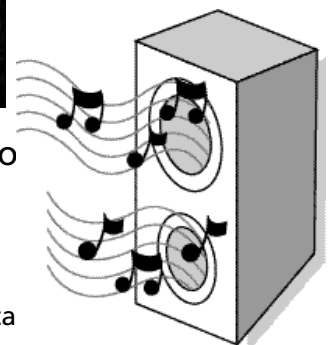
**DANCE SKATING**  
Intermediate/  
Advanced  
Fridays at  
6:00pm - \$20  
at the Roxy

We sell skates at super rates - Traditional skate specialists  
Skates - Wheels - Bearings - Riedell - Snyder - Suregrip - Bones - Kryptos  
(212) 777-3232 Visit us on the web: [www.skateguru.com](http://www.skateguru.com)

The CPDSA would like to thank



for their generous donation of our new speakers for the 2003 season, and for their most recent contribution of new peripheral speakers that carry our music at the north and south ends of the Circle.



人道

Michael F. Kelly L. Ac., ADS

Acupuncture & Chinese Herbs

914.548.7585  
mkelly\_tcm@hotmail.com



Johnny Quads catches up with a friend from San Francisco.

Photo ©2003, Darryl Thomas



## Join us! CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount of Contribution

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

Check     Cash     Money Order

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 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.

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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