

# Thank You 2015 CPDSA New and Renewing Members

The CPDSA thanks these current 2015 members whose generosity allows us to keep rolling.

Adam Adam  
Hector Alemany  
Travis Austin  
Bobbi Bongard  
Dave Britton  
Rick Casalino  
Terry & Collins  
Darryl Davis  
Lynna Davis  
Tom Dowling  
Janis  
Janice Brian J. Doyle

Richard Epsein  
Peggy Flefleh  
Regine Gilbert  
Neal Goldman  
Richard Hassard  
Rita Infante  
Michael Katz  
Artemis Koprulu  
Murat Koprulu  
Dimitri LaFortunne  
Steve Love  
Judy Lynn

Pamela Lobdell  
Bobby Morales  
Neil Meredith Jr  
Wilie Morales  
Gail Brillhart Myrick  
Justin Myrick  
Stephen Myrick  
Alan Pfeifer  
Robin Ostrow  
Amy Rea  
Jamie Rivera  
Regina Rider

Jose Rivera  
Todd Roberge  
Zulma Rodriguez  
Jennifer Struck  
Julie Tan  
Dalys "Panama" Torres  
Tanya Valle  
Mark & Lee Wolf  
Tom Winslow  
Bob Wollner



Steve & Gail



Tanya, Pop & Lynna

Photos: © 2015 by Bob Dea

## CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**JOIN US!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Please make a copy of this membership application and mail it, along with your contribution, to the CPDSA address below. You can get additional applications and more information from our staff members at the CPDSA Skate Circle, located mid-park, just west of the bandshell. To find us, enter Central Park at East or West 72nd street on weekend days between 3 and 7 PM and walk along Terrace Drive toward the center of the park. Listen for our dance music, you'll find us.

**Contribution:**

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

New Member     Renewal



**Central Park** DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Bob Nichols  
421 West 56th Street – 2A  
New York, NY 10019



# Central Park DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2015  
VOL. 21 ISSUE 2

## CPDSA 20th Anniversary Season

- 05/23 SATURDAY**  
DJ Kervyn Mark
- 05/24 SUNDAY**  
DJ e
- 05/25 MONDAY**  
DJ Mike Dominico &  
DJ Duce Martinez

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- 05/30 SATURDAY**  
DJ Andre Collins
- 05/31 SUNDAY**  
NO SKATING  
Israel Day Paradea

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- 06/06 SATURDAY**  
DJ Duce Martinez & DJ  
Rubin R
- 06/07 SUNDAY**  
DJ Bobby Morales

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- 06/13 SATURDAY**  
NO SKATING  
Mississippi Day Picnic
- 06/14 SUNDAY**  
NO SKATING  
Puerto Rico Day Parade

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- 06/20 SATURDAY**  
NO SKATING  
Adventures in NY
- 06/21 SUNDAY**  
DJ Stormin' Norman  
Fathers Day

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- 06/27 SATURDAY**  
SKATING DAY
- 06/28 SUNDAY**  
DJ Arson

### THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place most Saturdays, Sundays and major holidays in 2014 from April 12th through October 26th. The music plays from 2:45 pm to 6:45 pm.

### OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS

**Bob Nichols** 212-246-1344  
**On the Web** [www.CPDSA.org](http://www.CPDSA.org)  
**E-mail** [CPDSA@earthlink.net](mailto:CPDSA@earthlink.net)

### CPDSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Nichols, President  
Gwen White,  
Recording Secretary  
Vera Sinnreich  
Tyrone Cloud  
Jose Rivera  
Duane Reid  
Sal Rentas  
Lezly Ziering, President Emeritus

Bobbi Bongard:  
Editing, Production

This year, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CPDA. Of course, skating in our general area of the park has been going on for more than a century. Ice skating on the Rowboat lake, is documented in photographs from the 1880s. We have photographs of skaters in the Park in the thirties and an antique Poster for a 1936 Halloween roller skate event on the Mall.

In the early 1980s the Parks Department asked a group of skaters - who gathered on the Bethesda Terrace road at 72nd street - to move to the Dead Road because they were blocking traffic. The skaters liked the new area and soon made it their own. Wayne and Erik painted two concentric circles on the ground just south of the path between Mineral Springs and the Bandshell. That area became known as "The Skate Circle". Through the 80's a succession of DJs brought increasingly powerful radios and car stereo systems,

powered by car batteries, to play music for the skaters.

By 1994 the Skate Circle had become enough of an institution that when large corporate sponsored events drove their trucks in and started setting up tents, stages and bleachers, the skaters argued with them and didn't want to let the contractors take over. That was when the Dinkins Administration reached out to the skaters in the Circle and came up with a cooperative agreement to recognize the Circle and have it move down the hill onto the area that had been newly paved as part of the Bethesda Fountain and Bandshell Plaza restoration; if they would allow the events to set up without a big fuss. That area is the present location of the Skate Circle.

In April of 1995 the newly elected Guiliani administration reneged on our agreement and banned amplified sound in the park

without a permit from the police. They refused to issue permits to the skaters. Faced with a total ban on music in the park a group got together and formed the Central Park Dance Skaters Association in an attempt to find a way to get our skating back. Negotiations dragged on for months and many skaters gave up and moved on.

The CPDSA asked Stewart Popovitz - a skater who was also an electrical engineer—to build a low power FM radio transmitter for us. With that radio transmission and our first DJ, Jay Stewart, playing music that could be heard using FM walkman radios, we were able to get the Circle rolling again. Skaters came back and kept rolling until the city finally relented and allowed us to get the required permits. It was on July 4th 1995 that the CPDSA was finally able to play music out loud once again. Each year we celebrate the CPDSA's birthday on the 4th of July.



CPDSA Family





Diana



Big Joe



Zosia

**SKATERS, DO YOU HAVE SKILLS THAT COULD HELP THE SKATE CIRCLE?**

...or just someone genuinely willing to be a part of the group that keeps the skate circle rolling?

Would you like to contribute stories or photos for consideration in our next newsletter?

please contact: [CPDSA@earthlink.net](mailto:CPDSA@earthlink.net)

**Last Stop:**



**Last Stop: A Survivor's Story**

by Nelson Velez and Tommy McInnis

A true story based on the lives and work of Nelson Velez, NYPD HOU police officer, and Tommy McInnis, an MTA Connections outreach worker, truly details the lives of some of New York's unsung heroes.

<http://www.laststopbook.com>



Barry



Benny



# The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols, President, CPDSA

The weather this summer has been wonderful for skating in the park; temperatures in the mid 80s and moderate humidity. We were rained out a number of times early in the season, but most of the time we were able to skate without having to run for cover.

There is much to be grateful for this year besides the weather. We are making slow progress on a number of ongoing projects that make the Circle a better place to skate. Something as simple as repainting the rink guidelines has reiterated our presence and renewed our claim to this little corner of Central Park. Because the lines are bright and well delineated, they carry greater authority. The skaters and others stay behind the end lines and allow traffic in the main rink to move smoothly. Skaters do not have to weave around clumps of people standing in the skating area. Dancers in the center areas see the lines and understand our directions to stay within those boundaries and not block the skaters circling the rink.

We have also begun work on patching the worst cracks in the pavement and as these improvements are made no one except the skaters even notice the difference. This work is very arduous and time consuming, weather conditions and use of our area by other events limit our ability to continue the work. There is also the factor of volunteers being free when all other conditions are met: it is always difficult to meet all of those criteria. Like most attempts to change and make things better in life, they come in small increments and we do what we can when conditions are right; we gain ground slowly and try not to lose motivation.

We have been able to make small improvements to our sound system to make it more reliable, though it is a work in progress. We are still trying to solve some technical problems with the amplifier cutting out without warning. We have made some progress, by adding an additional high capacity heavy duty battery that we can switch to when we need an infusion of fresh power. Some of the problem may be due to the fact that our admittedly high quality amplifier is twenty-five years old and has served though hard duty in a difficult, dusty and sometimes damp environment. None of those factors are conducive to long life for sensitive audio equipment and replacing that equipment costs money, which is one of the ongoing problems of the CPDSA.

Because we are a community based volunteer organization with no corporate or government funding, our finances are precarious; dependent on the strength of the economy and the goodwill of our Skaters, Dancers and other supporters. This year there has been a disturbing and unexplained change in the rules of our special events permits from the Department of Parks. After nineteen seasons of being granted permission for all three days of holiday weekends for our fund raising sales, we are now allowed only one day on those weekends. This unprecedented restriction reneges on an agreement between us and the Parks Department in effect since 1995. We have protested this change, but so far there has been no redress of our grievance. This is not good for our financial picture, but we have persisted for twenty years and we are not going to give up now.

The Skate Circle Lives!



**DJ A & DJ Hani**



**DJ RC LaRock**



**DJ Rob Scott**