

Thank You 2021 CPDSA New and Renewing Members

The CPDSA thanks these current 2021 members whose generosity allows us to keep rolling.

Anthony Donoghue	Ileana Adamos	Chantal Dance	Kathy Cino	Steve Myrick
Suzanne Maxx	Kate Bieger	Marisela Bolanos	Rita Britton	Justin Myrick
Robin Ostrow	The Mobile Notary	Regine Gilbert	Barry Nalebuff	Suzi Soloway-Anders
L L and Kay Gifts and	Concierge, LLC	Val Brochard	Brett Kassof	In Loving Memory
Confection LLC	Courtney Davis	Richard Epstein	Carla McKenney	of Alan Anders
Elizabeth Hurst	Edna Davoll	Roz Reich	Wayne Tusa	Elizabeth Cohen
Ida Dupont	Tanya Valle	Flourish Klink	LEEDS Coaching	Dan Barron
Robert Mattias	Nina Kulmala	Froilan Sunga	Joanna Verzosa	Kevin Coduto
Heidi Schmidt	Nancy Nacim Valdes	Ute Kammerer	Jennifer Stevenson	Ivory Henderson Robb
Dalys “Panama” Torres	Jessica McRorie	Bob Dea	Mark Roberts	Thomas Tupper
David Britton	Lynna Davis	Bobby Morales	Lori A. Duff	Domino Weir
Vino Vinehaus	Chris Burchsted	Steve Antoniewicz	Whitney M. Shephard	Robbin Ziering
Tom Goddu	Dave Britton	Tirissa Reid	Larry Lieberman	Lori A. Duff
Neil Meredith	Rebecca Zaretsky	Iman Barkhordari	Roscoe Parker	Alice Phillips
Suzi Soloway-Anders	Ida Dupont	Julio Collazo	Michael Katz	Ashley Yalof
In Loving Memory	Viviane Tubiana Design	Liza Chiu	Thomas McInnis	Laura Phillips
of Alan Anders	Kyle Garne	Robert Sherman	Mary Hall	Olivia Edwards
Betty Gonzalez	Beatriz Pelaez-Martinez	Celia Kutcher	Harry Martin	Ann Kaplan
Leila Carbonell	Richie Spivack	Danuta Zakrzewska	Kathleen Miller	Alicia R Fantauzzi
Lawrence Simmons	Rena Zager	Lillian Newberg	Rose Doyle	
Sylvie Shaffer	Kristen Dumanski	Laura Zygas	Mark Saltzman	
Robert Mattias	Connie Reynolds	Steve Gertner	Gail Brillhart Myrick	



Zorzet



Tone Rapp, Zulma & Tyrone



Butch

All Photos this page: © 2021 by Bob Dea

SUPPORT US

Your generous contribution will go to pay for permits, sound equipment, storage, and other essential operating costs necessary to keep the CPDSA Skate Circle rolling.

Secure your payments via PayPal by scanning the QR code. If you do not have a PayPal account, PayPal will let you use a debit or credit card. If you have a PayPal account, you will need your PayPal login info to complete your payment.



SEPTEMBER 2021 • VOL. 26 • ISSUE 3

DJ SCHEDULE

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

09/04 SATURDAY
—>DJ Kervyn Mark

09/05 SUNDAY
—>DJ KL

09/06 MONDAY
—>DJ Stargazer

09/11 SATURDAY
—>DJ Drac/LaDeeva/
Chrome/MVR

09/12 SUNDAY
—>DJ Misbehaviour

09/18 SATURDAY
—>NO SKATING
Parks Dept. Event

09/19 SUNDAY
—>NO SKATING
Conservancy Event

09/25 SATURDAY
—> DJ Stormin’ Norman

09/26 SUNDAY
—> DJ Shan S

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place most Saturdays, Sundays and major holidays in 2021 from April 10th through October 31st. The music plays from 2:45 pm to 6:45 pm, weather permitting.

OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS

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On the Web www.CPDSA.org
E-mail info@cpdsa.org

CPDSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Nichols — President
Lynna Davis — Vice President
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Bob Dea: Photography
Val Brochard: Editing, Production, and Web

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

- https://www.facebook.com/CentParkDanceSk8
- CPDSA Fan Group

PLEASE DONATE

Scan this QR Code to donate and help the Skate Circle live on! Thank you!



PETITION TO RESURFACE THE SKATE CIRCLE

Help us get the city to release the funds already allocated to resurface the skate circle by signing a petition. Scan this QR code to read and sign the petition.



Where we are coming from

There has been Roller Skating in the area around the Bandshell and Mall for many years. We have a poster from a Parks-Department-sponsored Halloween roller-skating event from 1936 and photos of young kids skating in the area in the 1940s. People have been skating on Dead Road from the first days it was closed off to traffic in the 60s. It is nothing new and skating is not going to end there anytime soon.

The resurgence in Roller Skating in the late 1970s swelled the park with skaters well into the 90s. The Parks Department and the Police were worried about the large crowds of skaters on Dead Road. In 1994, a group of skaters were asked to cooperate with the Dinkins administration to allow sponsored special events to take place on Dead Road without interference. In return, the group was granted Special Events permits for the days when no sponsored event occurred, which gave it a sanctioned status. This group was us—the future CPDSA. We also agreed to move down the hill to the North end of Dead Road into what turned out to be a natural amphitheater. This is where we now skate. We call it “Skaters Road;” you can find it on Google Maps. Our free roller-skating event is called “The Skate Circle.” From the beginning, we have been a free, safe, family- and tourist-friendly presence in the middle of the park.

In 1995, the incoming Giuliani administration was determined to silence our music and stop us from skating. Police and Parks enforcement confiscated a small boombox and we were warned not to play music out loud. A small FM transmitter held us together — we could all hear the same music in our headphones and keep a circle of skaters synchronized. We held out for three months while we negotiated with Parks Commissioner, Henry Stern. We were finally granted the right to apply for the type of permits that would allow us to legally hold our Skate Circle events with

music playing out loud. They also promised to do everything possible to provide a storage space in the park, a key element for us.

In 1998, the Central Park Conservancy signed a contract with the Parks Department to take over the management of the park. At that time, we were told that our agreements with the Parks Department were “Grandfathered in” to that contract. Over the following 20 years, our relationship with the Conservancy matured into one of mutual trust and good-natured problem solving.

The Central Park Dance Skaters had a friendly relationship with the Conservancy. The cleanup guys liked us because we left the area clean after our sessions. Supervisors liked us because we didn’t bother them unless there was something serious. The executives liked us because we kept our word, they could depend on us. We were good partners.

When cracks opened in the pavement where the big trucks and campers for film shoots and sponsored events parked, we fixed them and repainted the rink guidelines. No one objected.

Things began to change in 2018 when President of the Conservancy, Doug Blonsky, retired and new President, Betsy Smith, took his place. Suddenly, at our annual meeting with the Conservancy and Parks Department, Vice President of Operations Caroline Greenleaf, told us that we did not have any special “Grandfathered” status. They unilaterally denied our long-term agreements that had stood for more than 20 years. Instead of working together, we were being dictated to. All of our ideas for practical solutions that we could carry out on our own were denied along with our long-standing agreements. We were under attack...



Summer 2021 Skate Family

Photo: © 2021 by Bob Dea



Roberto



Yvette & her granddaughter



Aristedes

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: info@cpdsa.org



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Sineon



Edna hoopig and skating



Nidia

The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols, President, CPDSA

The most important thing to know about the Conservancy is that it is there to raise money to make the park more beautiful. Recreation is an afterthought. Corporations and wealthy donors are its constituency. Regular people who cannot support their fund raising goals are not a priority. The CPDSA is a free event with no corporate sponsors. Our business plan is to roller skate and have fun. We teach kids and neophytes basic skating skills and how to improve the skills they already have. This is not for money. It's for the love of roller skating. We advocate for skating. We are not the park users the Conservancy values.

Sponsored events and film shoots make money for the park. They do cause more damage to the pavement than we do, but of course they bring money to the park. The Conservancy wants pavement good enough for a parking lot or for pedestrians to walk on, not roller skating. Each year at our annual meetings, the CPDSA asks the Conservancy to use some of the money raised from those events to repair the pavement damage caused by those events. This common sense solution has been ignored by the Conservancy for 23 years.

In November of 2018, we met with Christopher Nolan to survey the North end of Dead Road where the Skate Circle operates. Mr. Nolan asked who had made the very obvious repairs to a hundred foot long crack in the pavement. I told him that I had done it myself with a little help from my friends. He asked who had approved that work and I told him that we were told to just do the needed repairs and not ask for permission.

Mr Nolan warned us not to do any more repairs or repaint our guidelines. He told us that there were places in the park in far worse condition and that our road was not a priority to him. It was only when we offered to raise the funds to pay for the Conservancy's contractor to resurface the Circle, that he expressed interest. Three years later, that money has been raised. Some from our skaters and supporters, but most of it, through the generosity of Manhattan Borough president Gale Brewer and the City of New York—yet the work is not even in the planning stages.

The Conservancy now denies our special "Grandfathered" status. They seem to ignore the contract they signed with the Department of Parks when they took over the management of Central Park in 1998. They have reneged on the promises made to find us indoor space in the park where we can charge our batteries and safely store our equipment. This year, we were denied permits for at least ten days when there were no other events taking place in our area, despite the long-standing agreement that we would be issued special events permits for those days when there were no sponsored special events preempting us.

This situation has not escaped the notice of some of the younger skaters who are very impatient with the Conservancy and with the CPDSA. They feel we are not being aggressive enough in dealing with the Conservancy. They are tired of excuses. They know that San Francisco and Los Angeles have made improvements to the premier skating areas in their cities and they want to know why improvements that have been approved and paid for, continue to be delayed. They are no longer content with complaining to us and are determined to take the issue directly to the Conservancy. Their petition has garnered more than 700 signatures. These are young skaters who disagree with the CPDSA's long-standing policy of cooperating with the Conservancy. They want change right now!

This issue is very personal to me. Five years ago, I told the CPDSA Board of Directors that I would retire from the presidency at 75. This February will mark my 75th birthday. I want our situation with the Conservancy resolved before I step down. I do not want to abandon the organization and will work with the next generation leadership so they can take over. The CPDSA will be in the hands of energetic, dedicated young skaters who can take the organization into a new era. Please contact us if you are interested in joining our leadership.

The Skate Circle Lives!



Support Us! The Skate Circle is run by volunteers and solely depends on donations to exist. Please scan this QR Code to donate.



DJ Stormin' Norman



DJ Stargazer



DJ Shan S