



EVENTS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

DJ Robert Scott

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

will officially resume in late April, 2000, and every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday through October 31st. The music begins at 2:30pm, and ends at 6:30pm.

THE CPDSA WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HALLOWEEN!

NY AREA ROLLER RINKS

Central Park skaters carry on through the cold winter months indoors at the following rinks:

The Roxy

515 W. 18th St. (Between 10th & 11th Aves.) 212-645-5156
Wednesday nights.

Skate Key

220 E. 138th St. @ Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY, 718-401-0700
Thursday and Sunday nights.

USA

1276 Hicksville Rd.
Seaford, Long Island, NY

CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lezly Ziering - Chairman
Bob Nichols
Muhammed Abdul-Aziz
Alonzo Jones
Stuart Pollack
Steve Heuring
Carol Spalding
Bill Levy
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Circle Love In The Shadow Of Hate

by Stephen P. Lindsey

As a lot of you from our circle family know already, I am one of the many people who has been directly affected by the horrible tragedy that occurred in our city on Tuesday, September 11th. I was an employee in the banquet department at Windows on the World on the 106th and 107th floor of World Trade Center 1, and as a result of scheduling and of someone looking down on me from above, I was not at work on that sad day.

The "what ifs" can really get to you if you allow them too much life in your conscious thinking, in a situation like this. Although I have had a hard time keeping those thoughts — those "what ifs" — away from the forefront of my mind, I like to think I've done a pretty good job at beginning to try to heal and accept that it wasn't my time. For roughly 75 of my co-workers who are still miss-

ing and unaccounted for, this is not the case.

I think we sometimes take for granted the incidental, everyday relationships in our lives. Those people we see at work, close friends or just small acquaintances, maybe just a stranger you might make contact with on a train. These are all people whose lives intersect with our own on however large or small a level. For those of us who read this newsletter, there's another place where we may take those human connections for granted, and it's here in our skate circle.

It's hard to know everyone who comes and goes on a regular basis to enjoy the music and closeness we all share on our wheels. It's hard to remember all the names and faces, and keep up with who's who, and who does what outside of this little part of

our lives. But among us all are people with whom we've developed some kind of relationship during the months of our circle season. People we see each year, each month, week, and on some occasions each day, and whether it's just a friendly wave or a hug of a greeting, it's a relationship that we have in our lives with another human being. And being out here skating to our music, is a common experience that we all enjoy and share together.

I have written for this newsletter before, as many of us have, and we've all covered on some level, the sense of family that exists among us in the park. For me personally, I think it's just been driven deeper in the wake of this disaster, how those small relationships can take on a bigger meaning in our lives. The day after the attack on the World Trade Center, I had to attend a

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Moment of silence at the Skate Circle for the victims of the September 11th attacks.

very somber and sad meeting with my surviving co-workers in an effort to try to compile any information possible on those that are still missing. It was not an easy meeting to be a part of, hearing the names of so many people I know read off of a long list of those that were at work that morning. Beside me, I had a bag with my skates and as soon as the meeting ended I pulled them on and skated over to the bandshell in the park. A place I spend many summer days when I'm not working, and a place where I always see more than a few familiar faces.

When I arrived in the park that day, I was greeted by many people who knew me well enough to know that I could have very easily been among the missing on that list of my fallen co-workers. Many people hugged me in tears, and offered their heartfelt sympathy along with a sigh of relief that I was okay. I had already been contacted by countless friends and family members seeking the same knowledge of my well being, but here were people who weren't as close to me as many of my loved ones, showing a genuine interest and concern for me. I took great comfort in that, and it means more to me than many of you will ever know. I feel closer to many of you from just being out there and skating among you, and somewhat selfishly whispering to myself "thank you God for letting me live another day to come here and do this."

I spent every afternoon and evening out there after September 11th, being among people who

cared enough about me to show their concern and sympathy, and I needed that, I still do... The weekend came and after some initial hesitation on the CPDSA's part, the decision was made to go ahead with the music as usual. Personally, I don't think there was ever any cause for debate over the issue, I know I needed the weekend. I think most of us felt the same way, we needed to be out there swirling among friendly faces, just to reassure ourselves that even in the worst of times, there's still a place where we can go to find our peace and comfort.

I stood in that giant circle of joined hands that weekend and thought not only about the outpouring of love surrounding me, but also of my lost friends and co-workers. Mixed in with the sadness I felt in those moments, there was a quiet happiness as well. I think that's what this is all about. Even though I lost many people I used to share my working hours with, I gained an even stronger sense of family and friendship from those around me in our skate circle, and I really believe that is a moment we will all share forever. I think this will always be a special year for me for these very simple reasons and lessons I've talked about. I will look forward to next year with even more anticipation, and hope that Circle Season 2002 will bring us even closer in a world where peace, and love, and friendship has found meaning in places other than our spot in Central Park.

Thank you all from the deepest places in my heart for you support, sympathy, compassion, and love.



Steve proudly waves the US flag while Teddy keeps things under control on the day of the ceremony honoring the Sept. 11th victims.

Photo ©2001, Kenneth Nelson

Dance Skating 101

Instructor James Singley

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If you are a CPDSA member interested in submitting an article for our next newsletter, please contact our editor at marciroth@yahoo.com



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The View from Skater's Road

by Bob Nichols

On Wednesday, September 12, our contact person at the Central Park Conservancy called to tell me that every special event in the park scheduled for the following weekend had canceled. He asked if we were still planning on playing music and skating in the park. I told him that we had begun to plan a memorial of our own. He told me every sports event around the country had been canceled, and that we were being very selfish.

I told him that we were a community formed around the circle and that we needed to see each other to be sure that we were all safe. I agreed to get in touch with the rest of the CPDSA board and see what the consensus of the organization was and to give him an answer the next day. I sent an e-mail to the board and the DJs and other skaters whose e-mail addresses I had and asked for their opinions. Then I put on my skates and went to the park.

The streets were still eerily empty of cars and people that day. I skated past a cop at every intersection on 57th street. The wind had shifted so that it was out of the South and the air reeked from the smoke blowing up from downtown. When I got to Skaters Road, Steve Lindsey was the first person I saw; he worked at Windows on the World and though I had heard from him earlier in the day - I was so happy to see him that there were tears in my eyes.

Steve, and every other skater I saw in the park that night, felt that the Circle should operate as planned over the weekend. Every phone call and e-mail I received said the same thing - we should be there. When I reported that news back to the Conservancy, I was told that we had to end early, because a memorial peace vigil was going

to be held at the bandshell immediately following our event.

What I saw and heard that weekend reassured me that we had made the right decision. People greeted one another with hugs, warm handshakes and genuine concern. Over and over again I heard people say: "It's really good to see you...are you OK?" The heartfelt connection of old friends at the skate circle was never more evident.

At sunset on Saturday a candle light memorial for the victims was held by the Sikh-American Community at the bandshell. Many of our skaters stayed for the ceremony; adding a strong element of diversity to an event meant, in part, to distinguish the Sikhs — with their turbans and long beards — from others of a completely different religion who might look like them. At one point, candles were passed out to the crowd by young Sikh men and women. When we saw them hand out Hanukkah candles from a box with Hebrew letters on it; Stu Pollack and I had to laugh. It was a very ecumenical, very New York moment.

On Sunday, our DJ was Rikky Rivera — who, on the 11th, had run from his day job downtown just ahead of the first wave of falling debris. The music he played that day set just the right tone, celebrating life and yet feeling the city's pain. With great sensitivity, Rikky found the right music to lead us into our moment of silence, as we all joined hands around the Circle.

Then, when the time was right, he lead us back to our life affirming dance with soulful, spiritual House music. It was not an easy day, but it was a very good day.

We were right to be there.

The Skate Circle Lives!

Mineral Springs through the years

by Harry Falkenstein

When I played ball as a kid in the '60's down the hill from Mineral Springs, no one could hit the ball over the big rock in left-center field. Mineral Springs candy counter was our place for "treats," as both teams celebrated there after the game. Mineral Springs, in the late '70's, was owned and operated by a skater named Michael Kraus. One of our original spawning grounds was the storage area in the back. A few of our veterans, such as Eric Brothers and Shoshanna

Gleich will attest to skating to music in that small circle now used for maintenance.

Mike opened a shop called Good Skates, along with Bill Butler, in the rear of Mineral Springs and actually rented skates as late as 1981. So, in a sense, each week, it's an uphill push to return to our collective skating womb, only to roll downhill again to do our thing. Almost ceremonially and with a fervor that adds to the folklore.



A young skater gets ready to take a turn around the Circle.

Photo ©2001, Danielle Nigretto

The CPDSA would like to thank

MINERAL SPRINGS

for their generosity and cooperation over the past 6 years.



Please join Dr. Janis Brody for her book talk:

Your Body: The Girls' Guide
(St. Martin's Press)

Sunday, November 4th, 1pm
Barnes & Noble Main Store,
105 Fifth Avenue, at 18th St.



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



Wouldn't you like to have a **LAWYER** who skates in the same circles you do?

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Join us!
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Address _____

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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 _____



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4 Washington Place, #11F
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(212) 777-3232