



EVENTS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 10/9:

SKATING DAY - DJ Alchemy

SUNDAY, 10/10:

SKATING DAY -
DJ Misbehaviour

MONDAY, 10/11:

SKATING DAY - DJ Rikky Rivera

SATURDAY, 10/16:

SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, 10/17:

SKATING DAY - DJ Rikky Rivera

SATURDAY, 10/23:

SKATING DAY

SUNDAY, 10/24:

SKATING DAY - DJ Rob Scott

SATURDAY, 10/30:

NO SKATING
(Kids Halloween Event)

SUNDAY, 10/31:

SKATING DAY - DJ Rikky Rivera
HALLOWEEN PARADE
Daylight Savings Time ends

THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2004 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

On the Web: www.CPDSA.org

CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lezly Ziering - Chairman

Bob Nichols

Bill Levy

Muhammed Abdul-Aziz

Carol Spalding

Steven Myrick

Charles Threatt

Family

by Lezly Ziering

This was a sad year for our family of skaters - losing two of our hard core skaters within little more than a 10-week span. First the passing of Quincy Kirks followed by the loss of Renton Kirk. I am struck by the irony of their names. For me, at my age and my relation to the Skate Circle, I feel like the father of this brood, who has lost two of his children.

I got to know Quincy pretty well in the twenty-some years of skating together every week at many rinks and in Central Park. His passing was long anticipated and we had quite some time to adjust to that reality - it was a crushing blow nevertheless. Renton was taken

from us violently and suddenly and though I knew him by name and well enough to say hello and admire his superlative skating style, his deft leading of numerous skating partners and his swing dance on skates; I was acquainted with him for a relatively short time, and yet his death shook me to my core. He was, after all, one of my own. How I wish I knew him well. From the testimony of his family and the skaters who were close to him, like Lynna Davis who introduced him to skating, who acted with him, was cast and directed by him; he was a unique and remarkable man - skater, actor, director, writer, artist, mentor - one I had a

great deal in common with and with whom I could have had a strong bond.

Renton's colleague, Ozzie, who at the memorial in our Skate Circle, stated that we skaters know each other's faces but not our names, could not imagine the extent that we are known to one another. That we not only do know each other by name but that we have many close, even intimate associations that are formed in our Circle - that we celebrate births and mourn passings, gather for weddings and birthdays and share much more than meets the eye of the casual observer.

I have long felt that our skaters are a highly diverse and talent-

(Continued on back)



Eric turns Linda to the beat, as #14 rolls on...



Jose practices "crazy legs" at the south end of the Circle.

Photo ©2004, Steve Warshaw

人道

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Dr. Janis Brody
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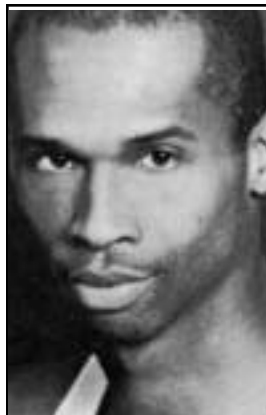
Members Supporters Contributors
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To perpetuate this highly valued and much loved source of recreation, relaxation and spiritual sustenance, we need your backing and your assistance, we cannot continue without your help!

and one of our CPDSA t-shirts. We will have t-shirts on sale at the Circle this Columbus Day weekend. Membership checks will also be accepted at the fundraising table at the south end of the circle.

This season we are emphasizing the importance of your membership in our organization. If you are not already a member please join. If you are already a member please renew. Individual memberships are a bargain at \$15 for the entire season. For \$25 you can get a membership

Your dues money helps defer the cost of Parks Dept. special events permits, police amplified music permits, transportation and storage costs, equipment maintenance and repair and all the other expenses we must cover to keep "our thing" alive.



Renton Kirk
May 24, 1970 -
September 28, 2004

*Friend, Skater,
Brother*

*Rest in peace,
Renton.
We miss you.*



If you would like to contribute stories or photos for consideration in our next newsletter, please contact: marci@cpsda.org

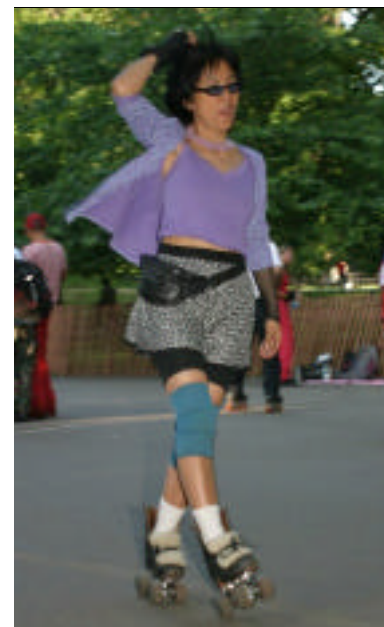


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Sonia glides around the circle with ease.

Photo ©2004, Steve Warshaw

The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols

The October breezes have chased the summer south and daylight fades earlier each weekend; we find ourselves approaching the end of another season at the Skate Circle. Our year began at such a high level of excitement - with the Whitney Museum and Public Arts Fund installation - it was almost inevitable that we would end on a lower note. Still, I don't think that any of us was prepared for the shocking and tragic loss of Renton "Kirk" Learmont.

At the Circle we knew Renton as a great skater and a wonderful skate dance partner. Several women who are among our most accomplished skaters have told me that he was a joy to skate with. He and his close friend Eric Vimont were swing dance fanatics, which was a major influence on Renton's unique skating style. There are photographs floating around the Circle of Renton dancing with Robin, Ida, Beth, Sara, Lorraine, Lisa... so many terrific partners ...watching them, we could see the sparkling, graceful quality of his presence. What many of us never knew was the great talent and promise this vital young man had as an actor, writer and film maker.

Though it came after a long illness, our loss of Quincy Kirks earlier this summer was no less heartfelt and saddening to his many friends at the Circle and throughout the skate community in New York. Quincy was an original, an icon and a progenitor of the skate scene in this city. He was there from the beginning,

with his purple headband, his incredible, high energy and inimitable style. For many of us, Quincy was the personification of dance skating in New York.

While these losses sadden us, we must be grateful for the opportunity that the Skate Circle, and skating in itself, has provided, by introducing us to one another and gathering our diverse community around our shared love and passion for skating. We may not be able to make sense of our losses, but as skaters, we do what brought us together to begin with, we keep on skating.

Last Sunday afternoon, after Renton's funeral, I was walking back to the Skate Circle with my good friend Robin Ostrow, who was one of Renton's regular skate partners. The two of us grappled with the sadness of the day. As we approached the Circle we began to hear the music and suddenly the Circle became real to us, we could feel it's power draw us in to it as if we were coming home.

In that moment a thought occurred to me: I wondered what heaven would be like for a skater. Wouldn't it be a lot like what the Skate Circle was at that moment? A non stop skate party with blue skies and comfortable temperatures; surrounded by familiar faces, all of us enjoying the pleasure that skating brings us, in a never ending dance, an eternal celebration of life and motion. It might not work for everyone, but for me, it sounds like paradise.

The Skate Circle Lives!

Halloween & E-mail

Oct. 31st - we will be having our annual Halloween celebration in the Park to close our season. We'd love to see a big turnout - **in costume!!!** Following the Park we will be joining the Halloween Parade. We will have a van with better speakers than we had for the African-American Parade. It should be a blast!!!

For those of you who have not put yourself on our e-mail list,

the next couple of weeks will be a good opportunity for you to get those addresses to me. I will be sending more information to all those on the list with the details about the Parade and throughout the year I will be able to keep you up on items of interest to skaters such as auditions, special programs and upcoming events. I send all e-mails BCC and I never give out the list to **anyone!!**



Andrew and Christine dance skate in step on a hot summer day.

Photo ©2004, Steve Warshaw



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The CPDSA
would like
to thank



for their
generous
support.

("Family," continued from cover)

ed group of individuals whose careers and abilities I would like to explore in greater depth. I would like to introduce, from time to time, in these pages, some of our notable skaters, to share their stories and get to know them better. I shall begin with the one I know the best - my wife Robbin - the CPDSA's nurse. Not often recognized for her considerable contribution to the well being of our skaters whose cuts and abrasions she has patched and bandaged, the broken bones she has splinted and iced, the splinters removed, the blisters treated, the perceptive and sometimes life saving medical advice she has dispensed since our inception in 1995.

Robbin, who looks 20 years younger than her 51 years, was born on Oct. 9, 1953 with

cystic fibrosis and a life expectancy of 30 years. She knew from early on that she wanted a career in nursing. She was discouraged at every step of the way by her instructors and the dean of Pace University's School of Nursing, because of her condition. She proved them wrong and graduated in 1974 at the top of her class.

With her passionate love for children it was only natural that she start her career as an RN, at the world renowned Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. They quickly recognized her talent and commitment and transferred her to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. After two years she was approached by the administration to start the first Flight/Emergency Transport Team on the East Coast of the United States,

transporting extremely critical children and babies, sometimes smaller than the size of her hand. She was credited for assisting and saving the lives of many children and newborns and her work continues now in transport teams all over the United States.

After many years in pediatrics Robbin became fascinated with hemodialysis and became an expert in the field of nephrology and became board certified in nephrology and dialysis. As an expert hemodialysis nurse she invented a device that has improved the quality of life for all dialysis patients in this country.

In the last few years of her active career, her love of children called her back. Robbin turned her expertise to working with children with AIDS.

Unable to save their precious lives she stayed with them till the end, advocating for them, fighting for their quality of life - nursing them and giving loving personal comfort and care, until her life was almost taken by a career ending infection resulting from her cystic fibrosis. Retired now, for reason of health, Robbin continues to share her medical knowledge to help friends, family and colleagues who seek her assistance as her love of nursing will never wane.

We wish you good health Robbin - HAPPY BIRTHDAY - and many more to come!!!!

If you have an interesting life story, a fascinating career or an anecdote of note - we'd like to hear it and put it in print. Please contact me, Lezly, I'd be pleased to tell your tale.

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 _____



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