

Thank You 2015 CPDSA New and Renewing Members

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

Adam Adam
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Sinean Kamagate
Michael Katz
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Dimitri LaFortunne
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Steve Love
Judy Lynn
Bobby Morales
Neil Meredith Jr
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Gail Brillhart Myrick
Justin Myrick
Stephen Myrick
Roscoe & Linda Parker
Alan Pfeifer
Paul
Robin Ostrow
Quincy
Randy Amy Rea
Lisa Reich
Connie Reynolds
Jamie Rivera

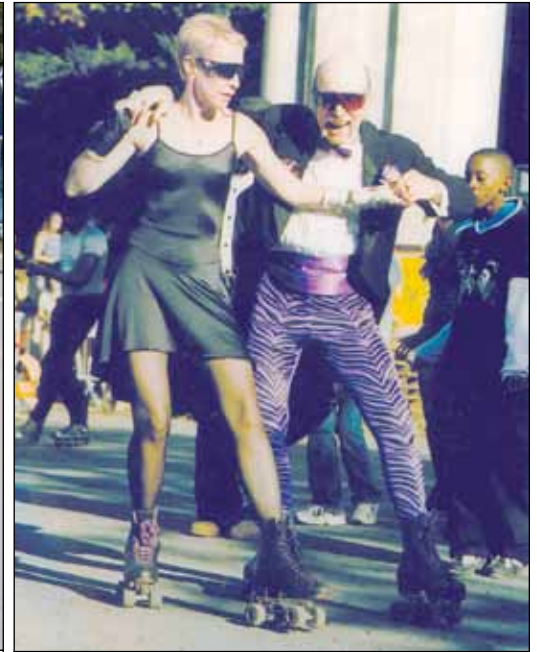
Regina Rider
Jose Rivera
Todd Roberge
Zulma Rodriguez
Lorraine Sanchez
Ami & Ayu Soga
Jennifer Struck
Julie Tan
Dalys "Panama" Torres
Tanya Valle
Mark & Lee Wolf
Tom Winslow
Bob Wollner
Danuta Zakrzewska
Bartosz Zakrzewski



2000



Halloween, 2002



2002, with wife, Robin

Photo: © 2015 by Ventura Leake

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

AUGUST 2015
SPECIAL VOL. 21 ISSUE 3

08/01 SATURDAY
DJ RC LaRock

08/02 SUNDAY
DJ Big Bob

08/08 SATURDAY
DJ Kervyn Mark

08/09 SUNDAY
DJ Bobby Morales

08/15 SATURDAY
DJ KL

08/16 SUNDAY
DJ Duce Martinez

08/22 SATURDAY
DJ Benny D & Tommy S

08/23 SUNDAY
DJ Sandcastles
with Preston Brown

08/29 SATURDAY
NO SKATING
Central Park Film Festival

08/30 SUNDAY
DJ Mike Dominico

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

E-mail CPDSA@earthlink.net

CPDSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Nichols, President

Gwen White, Secretary

Vera Sinnreich

Tyrone Cloud

Jose Rivera

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Lezly Ziering, President Emeritus

Bobbi Bongard:

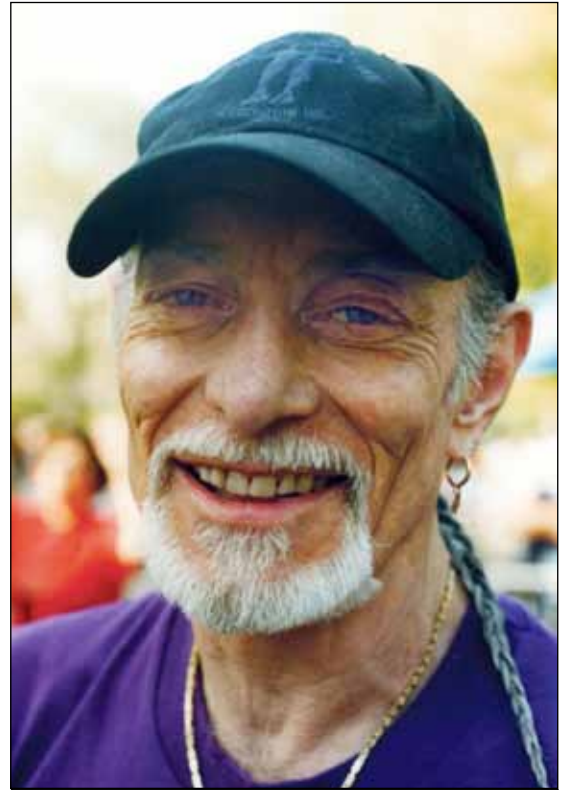
Editing, Production

Lezly, a Life

The Central Park Dance Skaters mourn the loss of our friend, long term president and Skate Guru, Lezly Ziering. His career as a professional dancer took him around the world, onto Broadway and into the movies. At the memorial held in Lezly's honor, his nephew, Fred, told us that Lezly's straitlaced, no nonsense father once told him: "You can't dance your way through life." Lezly spent his life proving him wrong.

At Sixteen, Lezly taught Latin dance at the Fred Astaire studio. At seventeen, In Camaguey, in pre-Castro Cuba, at the Festival of San Juan, Lezly picked a partner from the crowd and entered a Marathon Mambo contest. At 4:00 AM, after many hours of dancing, Lezly - the kid from New York - and his partner were declared the winners.

Then, Lezly began studying dance in earnest. His teachers over the years included an impressive variety of dance luminaries including Martha Graham, Charles Weidman, Doris Humphrey, Anna Sokolow and Donald McKayle for modern dance; Jazz with Matt Mattox, Luigi and Bob Fosse, ballet with Jean Yazvinski, Andre Eglevsky and in Paris with M. Ponti, ethnic dance with Asadata Dafora, Jean Léon Destiné, Geoffrey Holder, Hadassah and Shivaram.



LEZLY ZIERING
March 11, 1933 - July 16, 2015

Lezly's early performance career took him from NYC and Jacob's Pillow to Carnival Aquantico in the Dominican Republic, where he danced as soloist and assistant choreographer. From there he moved on to

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CPDSA Family, Memorial Day Weekend, 2012



NYC, 1950s

Photo: © 2015 by Torchia



With partner Simone Benthien, Late 1950s–Early 1960s

Photo: © 2015 BY VMaurice Seymour

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San Juan, Puerto Rico as choreographer and featured dancer in night clubs and on TV.

Lezly and Simone Benthien, his dance partner for 12 years, performed internationally on stage, TV, nightclubs and cruise ships. Lezly directed, staged and choreographed for repertory theater, stage personalities and night club performers. As an actor he appeared Off Broadway in “Hands of God”, “Che Guevara”, “Terrible Angels and in TV and radio commercials. Lezly also appeared in the Warner Brother’s Picture: “Marjorie Morningstar” with Gene Kelly and Natalie Wood and danced in “L’il Abner” and “Kismet.

In 1970 he established the Lezly Dance School in New York City which offered instruction in a wide range of techniques: Ballet, Jazz, Modern, African, Haitian, Brazilian, Flamenco, Tap, Hip Hop, Latin, Disco, Ballroom Martial Arts. In 1979 Lezly became avidly involved in roller skating and added this new love to the curriculum, creating the Lezly Dance and Skate School which offered instruction in roller skating and roller dance. This came at the dawn of the Disco and Roller Disco era; Lezly and his students contributed to the level of expertise among those early Roller Disco enthusiasts.

Lezly also originated several resident dance companies and was the artistic director for the “New York Express” and trained many of the performers in “Starlight Express” on Broadway, which featured some of the world’s finest dance skaters.

Lezly coached Donald Sutherland and Michael O’Keefe in skating for films. He also trained the performers and choreographed skate sequences for the off Broadway productions of “Faith Healing” and “Nunsense”. He was also a special consultant for the Broadway show “Xanadu.”



Lezly & Simone

Lezly was a founder, Chairman and President of the Central Park Dance Skaters Association, known worldwide as one of Central Park’s most vital attractions.

Above all, Lezly was a man who loved and was loved by all. Ethnicity, gender or religion were not barriers to him. A true New Yorker, he saw his fellow humans in all their diversity as one great tapestry of humanity. They were people to respect, to learn from, to teach and to entertain. Lezly was a wonderful friend, a thoughtful and gentle mentor, a passionate dancer and skater. Mr Skate Guru, you will be missed.

This article was adapted from a biographical sketch written by Lezly in the early 1990s.

He Will Live In Our Hearts

by Bob Nichols, President, CPDSA

I first met Lezly in 1980 at the Metropolis roller rink on West 55th Street in Manhattan; one of his students introduced us. Lezly was a revered teacher and I loved roller skating; that was what we had in common.

We slowly got to know one another and became friends. I would sometimes ride with him and some of his other friends to rinks around the metropolitan area, Empire Rollerdrome in Brooklyn, Laces in New Hyde Park, United Skates Of America in Seaford, Skate Key, in the Bronx, both the original and the second Skate Key. We also went to Branchbrook Park and Montvale rink in New Jersey. Not only did he skate at all the rinks, but they knew him and comped him in. That was pretty impressive.

Over the years, I learned about Lezly's amazing career as a dancer. A career that took him around the world, onto Broadway and in the movies as a performer and later as a teacher of dance and roller skating.

In 1995 when mayor Guiliani tried to throw us out of Central Park, the skating community banded together to keep our place there. Lezly was the one who pulled us together and inspired us to keep up the struggle until we had won our right to keep the Skate Circle rolling.

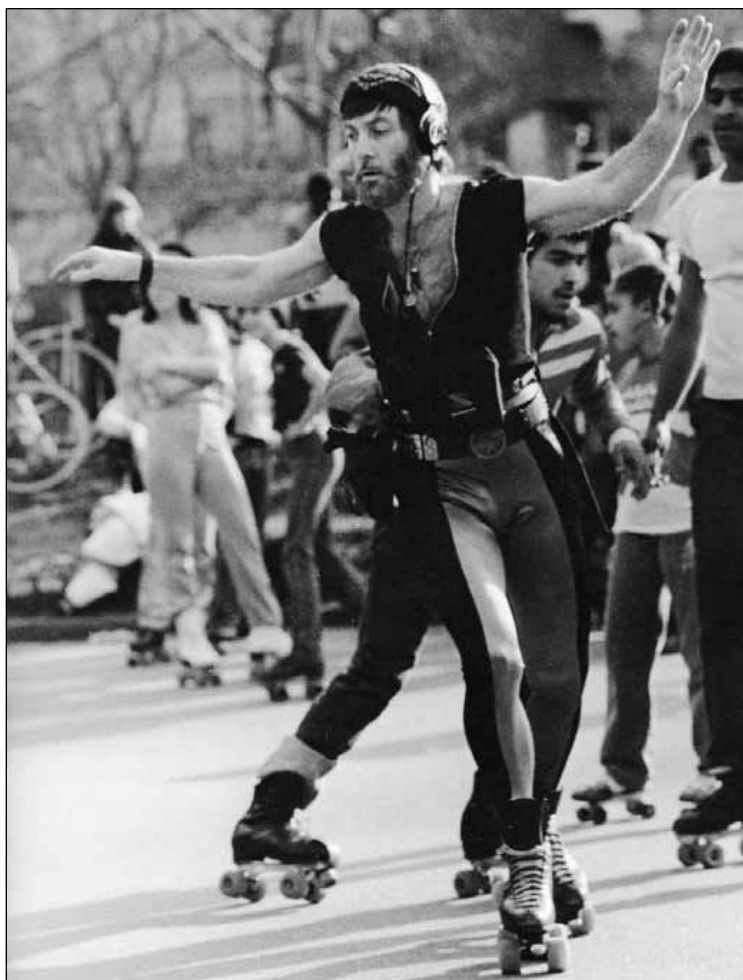
When every skating rink in New York City closed, Lezly opened Crazy Legs and gave us an indoor place to skate winter and summer. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for keeping skating alive in New York.

Lezly had tremendous energy and never seemed to let up. Still, parts of his body started wearing out after years of punishment, dancing, skiing and skating. A hip replacement, two knee replacements, three separate spinal surgeries and other operations, finally took their toll.

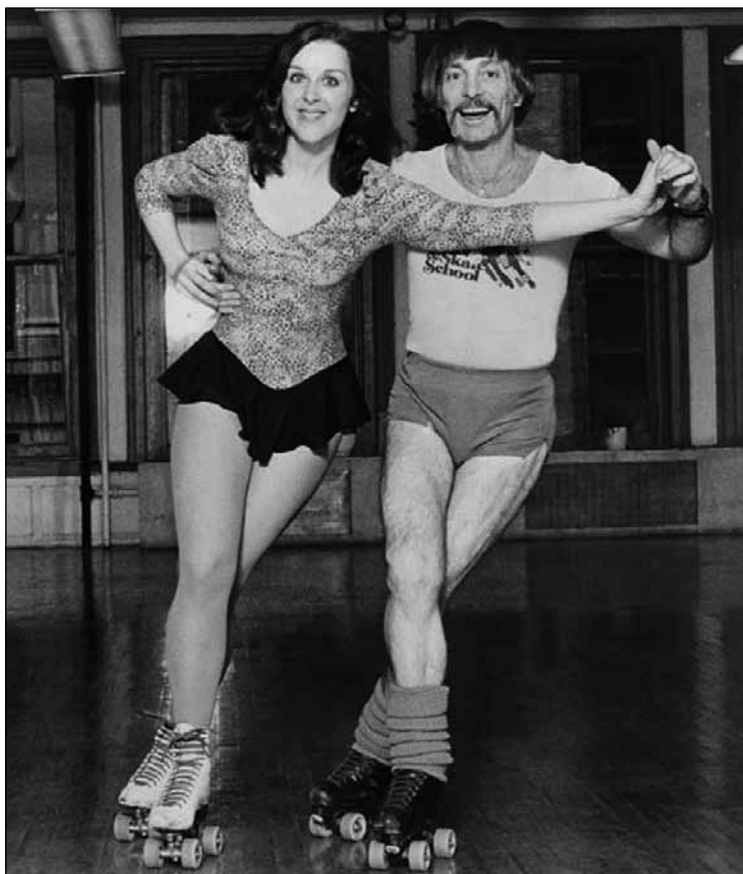
Repeated accidents and falls forced him to put his skates aside. He was devastated by the prospect of never being able to skate again. His vision dimmed so much that he was essentially blind. He couldn't raise his arms above his waist and finally he lost almost all use of his arms. His active life grew more and more sedentary until he was confined to a hospital bed and his life narrowed to a small group of friends visiting him and Robbin in their living room. His decline happened quickly and yet in slow motion until finally he was gone.

I like to believe that there is a celestial skating rink in the sky and that tonight, a Wednesday, Roxy skate night will find him there. The many skaters who have left us, Don, John, Mark, Stu, Ray, Renton, Roberta, Eric, Marlene, Charlie, Quincy, Randy, Paul, Kenny and all the others who preceded him there, will welcome him with a round of applause. His old friend Roxy DJ Julio will start the music and Lezly will finally get his wish and will skate again.

Lezly Lives!



Early 1980s, Central Park



1980s, Lezly Dance & Skate School