

# Thank You 2015 CPDSA New and Renewing Members

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

Adam Adam  
Ileana Adamos  
Hector Alemany  
Travis Austin  
Bobbi Bongard  
Gary L Bowler  
Dave Britton  
Kat Campbell  
Rick Casalino  
Michael Chung  
Kathy Cino  
Terry & Collins  
Darryl Davis  
Lynna Davis  
Bob Dea  
Tom Dowling  
Janis

Janice Brian J. Doyle  
Richard Epsein  
Marcia Estevez  
Peggy Flefleh  
Regine Gilbert  
Jeff Goldberg & Miyuki Koga  
Neal Goldman  
Richard Hassard  
Rita Infante  
Sinean Kamagate  
Michael Katz  
Karen Ann King  
Artemis Koprulu  
Murat Koprulu  
Dimitri LaFortunne  
Gary Lesser  
Pamela Lobdell

Steve Love  
Judy Lynn  
Bobby Morales  
Neil Meredith Jr  
Wilie Morales  
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

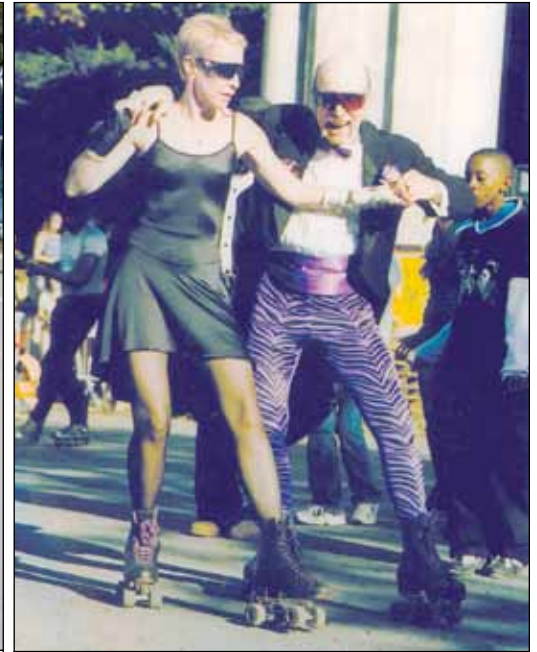
Regina Rider  
Jose Rivera  
Todd Roberge  
Zulma Rodriguez  
Lorraine Sanchez  
Ami & Ayu Soga  
Jennifer Struck  
Julie Tan  
Dalys "Panama" Torres  
Tanya Valle  
Mark & Lee Wolf  
Tom Winslow  
Bob Wollner  
Danuta Zakrzewska  
Bartosz Zakrzewski



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](http://www.CPDSA.org)

**E-mail** [CPDSA@earthlink.net](mailto:CPDSA@earthlink.net)

## CPDSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Nichols, President

Gwen White, Secretary

Vera Sinnreich

Tyrone Cloud

Jose Rivera

Duane Reid

Sal Rentas

Lezly Ziering, President Emeritus

Bobbi Bongard:

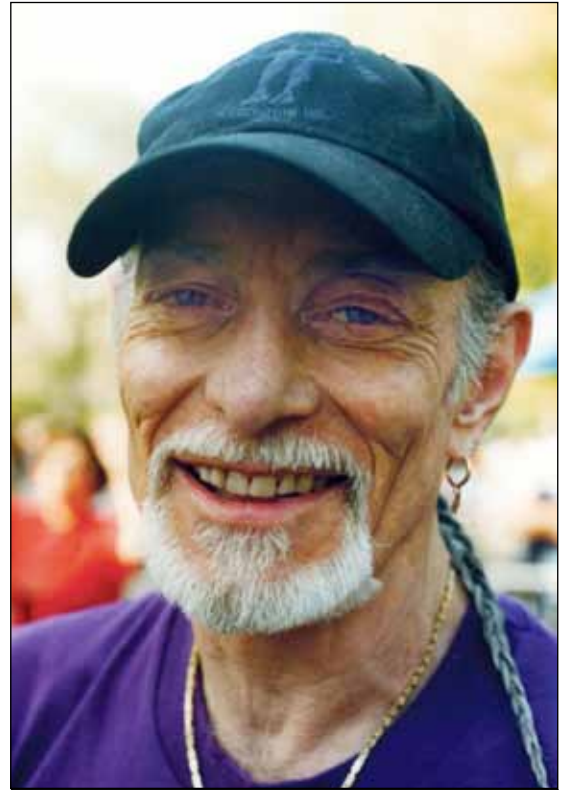
Editing, Production

## 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

*continued on page 2*



**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

*continued from page 1*

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.

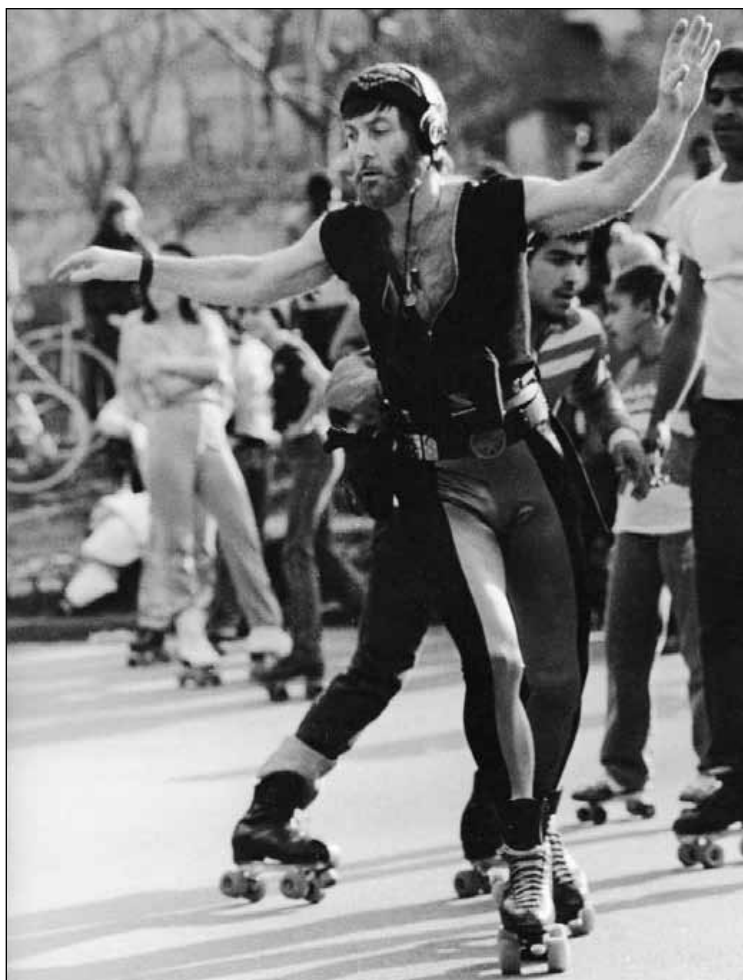
When every skating rink in New York City closed, Lezly opened Crazy Legs and gave us an indoor place to skate winter and summer. We owe him a great debt of gratitude for keeping skating alive in New York.

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.

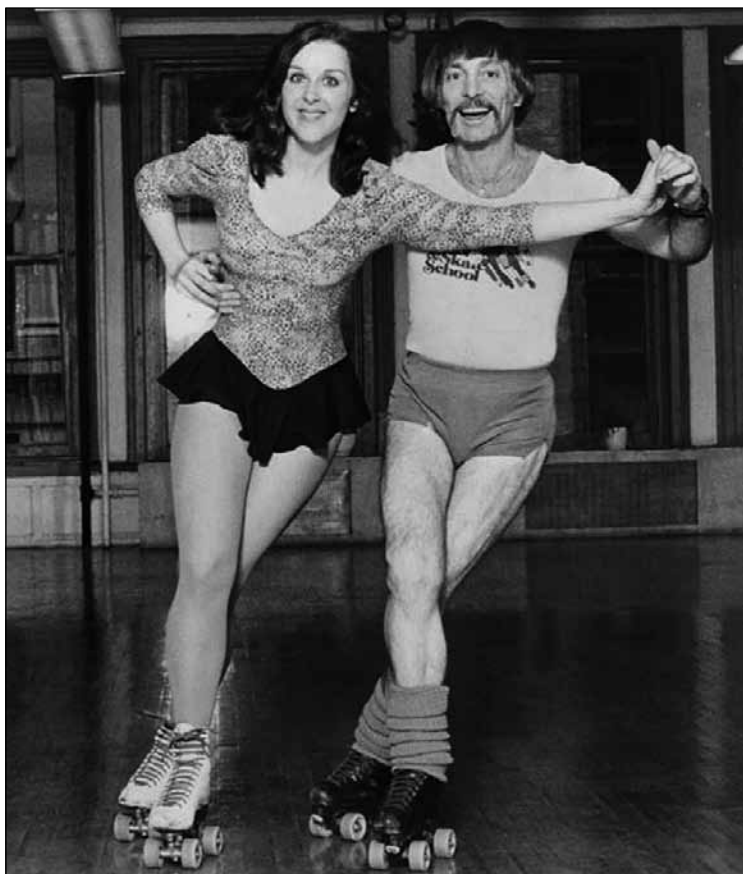
Repeated accidents and falls forced him to put his skates aside. He was devastated by the prospect of never being able to skate again. His vision dimmed so much that he was essentially blind. He couldn't raise his arms above his waist and finally he lost almost all use of his arms. His active life grew 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