ZALUSKY, JOSEPH

7-22-09

ZALUSKY, JOSEPH, 79, also known as "Disco Joe, the Dancing Machine", died Sunday, July 19, 2009.

He was the son of the late Elly and Minnie (Goldstein) Zalusky. He was the brother of Dorothy Rodrigez, Ralph Zalusky, and Rachel Biven, and the late Sarah Zalusky, Bella Massotti, Isaac and Abraham Zale. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

His funeral service will be held Thursday at 10 AM in the Priest Chapel at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice. Arrangements by SUGARMAN-SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

7-21-09

The Providence Journal PROJO RHODE ISLAND

Friends, neighbors recall 'dancing Joe'

Joseph Zalusky, 79, of Pawtucket, was walking back home after dancing at his favorite nightspot early Sunday morning when he was struck by a car and killed.

BY TATIANA PINA
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

PAWTUCKET — At Congregation Ohawe Sholam, friends knew Joseph Zalusky as a tireless volunteer who helped prepared meals for the elderly, shoveled snow and helped clean up when there was a mess.

CRIME |

His friends at Corinne's Banquet and More in Pawtucket, where Zalusky, 79, liked to go Fridays and Saturdays to listen to live music and dance with the ladies, called him "dancing Joe."

Zalusky didn't own a car so he walked everywhere. Sometimes he would walk miles from his home at a trailer park tucked away next to the Attleboro train station to Ohawe Sholam on East Avenue.

Saturday, he walked to Corinne's. He listened to his favorite band, Studio Drive, and danced. At about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, he was crossing Newport Avenue to return to his house when a vehicle struck him and fled. The police found him lying on the street. He was taken to Rhode Island Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly afterward.

Monday afternoon, the Pawtucket police announced the arrest of the man they say is responsible for striking Zalusky. The suspect, Christopher Lynch, 20, of 172 Richardson St., Attleboro, is being held by the Attleboro police as a fugitive from justice, the Pawtucket police said. The Pawtucket police have obtained a warrant charging Lynch with failing to stop after an accident that resulted in death or injury. The police said that the charge resulted from an investigation by Detective Charles Devine.

> "He was always on the dance floor; he hardly took a break."
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> **JARROD ILKOWITZ,** operations manager for Corinne's

Zalusky was born in Providence but grew up with eight siblings in Pawtucket, where he lived in extreme poverty during the Depression, according to Joseph Schwartz, 80, who grew up with Zalusky and attends the same synagogue. Three of his siblings are still alive. Zalusky never married or had children, Schwartz said. He worked a series of odd jobs including the Brooks pharmacy warehouse, Schwartz said.

Zalusky was an easygoing man who also liked to have fun, Schwartz said.

On Friday and Saturday he dressed in slacks and a sweater and crossed the busy Newport Avenue to go dancing at Corrine's. "I'm dancing with the young chicks; I don't want the old chicks," he would tell his neighbor, Joe Bickford.

At Corinne's, he was nonstop. "He was always on the dance floor; he hardly took a break," said Jarrod Ilkowitz, the operations manager for Corinne's. Zalusky carried a photograph in his pocket where he is posing with about 30 women back when Corinne's was a roller skating joint called Bobby's Rollaway. He showed it to everybody.

Bickford said his wife planted nasturtiums in a large white pot in Zalusky's yard and every time he saw her he would ask when they would bloom.

On Saturday, they finally bloomed.

"He got his flowers and his last dance," Bickford said.

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