

## History of the NNJSDA Showcase of Ideas Display

The National Square Dance Convention has a hall called “Showcase of Ideas”, which encourages displays from each state/region/association. New Jersey has displayed at the Showcase since 1973, and our display has won awards over the years.

### The Carousel

Related by Joyce Kelly, Ironia Reelers, NNJSDA Past-President ‘89-91:

“When we were Presidents (‘89-91), I thought it would be nice to recognize the clubs at the convention. I called our clubs and asked them if they would have someone in their club dress a doll in their club's raid outfit. We received

approximately 12 or more dolls dressed beautifully in their outfits. My idea was to have the dolls marching across the table to look like they were walking in to raid a club dance. It was a big hit and we received many compliments.

For several years I carried the dolls to the convention, as did other Presidents. When Shirley and Dick White became Presidents (‘91-93), they saw a carousel somewhere and brought the idea to Joe Passaro (Hix & Chix) and asked if he could make one for us, which he did. A caller doll was created and

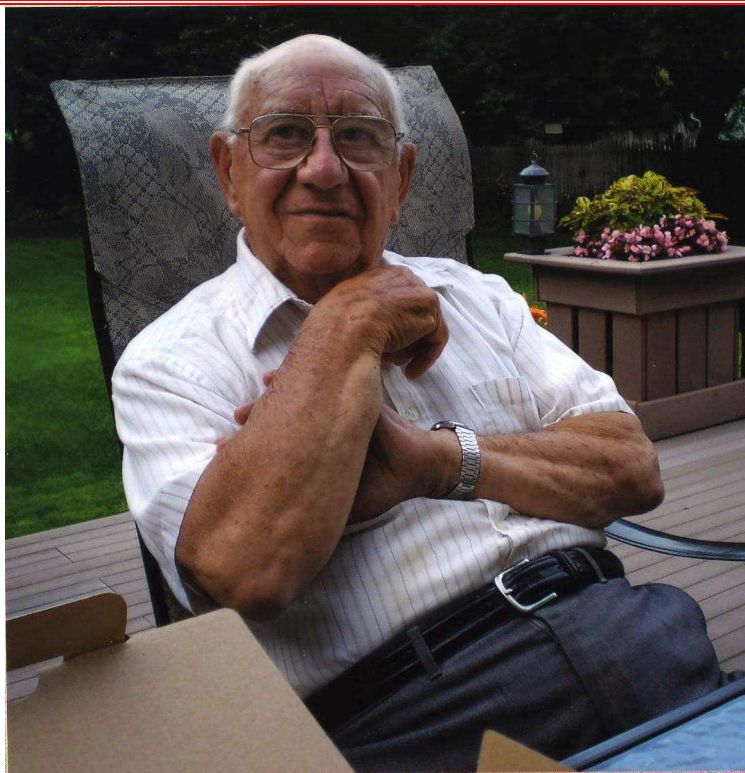


**Original Carousel 1998 Mini-Fest**

four couple dolls were used to make the square with two or three dolls watching. The dolls in the square were from Lakeland, Valley Squares, Covered Bridge, & J&M. I do not know what happened to the remaining dolls (doll heaven, I guess).

Mary Aquino (Past-President '85-87, Hix & Chix, Motiv8ors) also hand made the beautiful table cloth, which is still used.

When Peggy Koehler (Bee Sharps) became State Outfit Coordinator in 2001, she and the Square Dance Council of NJ, who initiated the NJ State Outfit, decided to change the dolls' dresses from club colors to the NJ State Outfit Kelly Green and White. The current outfits, all different styles, represent some of the many variations on the State Outfit theme that NJ dancers wear to National Conventions.”



## **JOE PASSARO**

1916-2008

Creator of the NNJSDA carousel

He was always a Square Dancer:  
warm, fun, and enthusiastic.

[www.johnaquino.com/  
JoePassaroSD.wmv](http://www.johnaquino.com/JoePassaroSD.wmv)

## The Plaques

NNJSDA has earned a plate for the plaque for each year we have displayed in the Showcase of Ideas at National Convention. In 1998 we were awarded a plaque for 25 years of continuous presence by the National Square Dance Committee.

## The Flags

The display includes both a United States flag and a New Jersey flag.

The US flag was presented to NNJSDA on April 21, 1985 by New Jersey Representative Dean and Anne Gallo. It was flown over the nation's capitol on March 8, 1985.

The NJ State flag was presented to NNJSDA January, 1985 by Anne Gallo and Rep. Dean Gallo. It was also flown over the State Capitol in 1985.

## The Carriers

The Showcase of Ideas, encased in two big boxes and including the flags and stands, is carried each year to the National Conventions by Association club members who are driving, and set up by members who are available at the time of its arrival. The past 12 years of "Carriers" are honored here. Although the previous Carriers names' have been lost in time, they are no less appreciated!

1997:	Orlando, FL	Charlie and Kathy Porter, Richmond Dancers
1998:	Charlotte, NC	Harry and Alberta vanLuvender, Lakeland Squares
1999:	Indianapolis, IN	Sal and Mary Alessi, Cross Trail Squares
2000:	Baltimore, MD	Harry and Alberta vanLuvender, Lakeland Squares
2001:	Long Beach, CA	Sal and Mary Alessi, Cross Trail Squares
2002:	St. Paul, MN	Sal and Mary Alessi, Cross Trail Squares
2003:	Oklahoma City, OK	Don and Pat Elliott, Hunterdon Flutterwheels
2004:	Denver, CO	Don and Pat Elliott, Hunterdon Flutterwheels
2005:	Portland, OR	Don and Pat Elliott, Hunterdon Flutterwheels
2006:	San Antonio, TX	Don and Dot Coy, Al'e'Mo Squares
2007:	Charlotte, NC	Chris O'Connor, FAD
2008:	Wichita, KA	Don and Pat Elliott, Hunterdon Flutterwheels