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JOE CARBONI, QUINTESSENTIAL SQUARE DANCER

By Karl Arnold Belser



Photo by Duane Stevens

The recent photo (above) shows Joe Carboni with his long-time square dance and round dance partner Tricia McCandless. Joe died on January 19, 2009. He was 76.

Joe was a member of the Outlaws, the Rockin' Jokers and the Single Squares of Sunnyvale (SSS) square dance clubs. Joe has also been one of the directors of the Committee to Promote Square Dancing (CPSD) since it's inception in 1999.

Square dancing was a large part of Joe's life. He was that father figure who always made sure that the hall could be opened, that there was water to drink, cups to drink out of, plates for the food, and that the chairs were set up if, for some reason, there was a mix-up. His clubs came to depend upon him as a core resource.

Among Joe's many contributions was his leadership as president of the Rafter Rockers to merge with the Jokers to form the Rockin' Jokers in 2005.

Joe, as a board member of the SSS and CPSD, arranged to sponsor square dancing at the Tapestry & Arts Festival over Labor Day weekend in downtown San Jose. In the last few years there have been afternoon hoedowns at Tapestry with the best of the local callers. These hoedowns were well attended and resulted in many new students joining the fall square dance classes.

Joe was an avid gardener and wood worker. His ornamental wheelbarrow planters carrying blooming "pregnant onions" and orchids were always a hit at square dance raffles.

Joe was, for me and many other dancers, the quintessential square dancer. I hope that Joe will be a model that will inspire our newer dancers in carrying the activity into the future.

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