



CALIFORNIA SQUARE DANCE COUNCIL, INC. YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2004 SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

EMMA JELLESED WINS 2004 CALIFORNIA SQUARE DANCE SCHOLARSHIP

On Saturday, April 24, 2004, California Square Dance Council Presidents Pat and Ave' Herndon had the pleasure of presenting the 2004 Council-sponsored college scholarship to Sacramento resident, Emma Kathleen Jellesed. The \$250 award was made during the 46th Annual California Square Dance Convention held at Cal Expo in Sacramento, CA.

Emma Jellesed is a 17 year old senior at West Campus High School in Sacramento, CA, and represents the Associated Square Dancers of Superior California (ASDSC). She began square dancing in 1996, a product of a square dancing family with three generations still active, including her parents, Ben & Terri, who currently serve as presidents of ASDSC, and grandmother Lovina Jellesed, who served as editor of *The Squarecaster* for many years.

From an early age Emma got involved in leadership roles, not only in square dancing, but in her school and with her church youth group. She started with the Square Generations family club in Sacramento, then became one of the first youth members of the Rainbow Stars Exhibition Square Dance Group when she joined along with her parents and younger sister, Heidi. Currently Emma dances with the Overalls of Orangevale, and is President of the River City Rugratz youth club.

Through the years Emma has been involved on the planning committees for both of the ASDSC-sponsored festivals, Harvest Hoedown and Fun Weekend, as well as serving on the Youth Committee for the 2002 California State Square Dance Convention in Ventura. In 2003 she became the assistant coordinator for dancing at the California State Fair, with duties including overseeing on-site dancing all 18 days of the fair. For the past three years Emma has served in the role of District #3 Director for ASDSC, acting as liaison for three clubs within the association. Emma has also offered valuable input and been an active participant in the California Youth Square Dance Competition.

In her application essay, Emma told us that she was a "punked-out rebel without a clue, who thought square dancing was about nothing but dancing to hokey music and wearing fluffy outfits." She admits now that, "I had no idea how much the truth contrasted with my initial observation. In the past nine years my ideas about square dancing have been thrown into a tail spin and it has set my world on fire." She went on to say that, "Square dancing for me is so much more than an activity or an exercise. It is a building block for life. Since joining the square dancing community I have made countless friends of varying ages. I have met people who were friends of my parents when they were my age. To know that this has been functioning for so long really gave me hope." She added that, "Once I began getting involved in leadership with the square dancers, my passion for dancing really caught on fire. Many veteran leaders took me under their wing and showed me the ropes. Due to their compassion and willingness to serve, I feel that I have become a much better leader." Indeed you have, Emma.

Following an extended ovation from the packed audience, Emma was presented with a plaque by the Herndons. She plans to attend Sacramento's Consumnes River College this Fall.



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In May of 2002 the California Square Dance Council honored a request by Council's Youth Advisory Committee to provide an educational scholarship to a youth square dancer from the state of California. Through private donations, the sale of State Convention grand prize tickets, and other fund-raising efforts, the committee has been able to fund the initial two scholarships. Fundraising efforts will continue so that the scholarship will become a permanent offering from Council, with the possibility of offering multiple scholarships each year and/or increasing the value of the scholarship. If individuals or clubs would like to make a donation to support either the scholarship fund, or the fund to continue promoting youth square dancing throughout the State, contributions may be sent to the California Square Dance Council, c/o Bonnie Abramson, Youth Advisory Committee Chair, 3039 Bridgeford Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833. Please indicate which fund your donation should be applied to, however also be aware that donations to either fund are NOT tax deductible under Council's current tax status.

To be eligible for the scholarship, dancers must be at least a senior in high school, but not yet 21 years of age by May 1st of the year they apply, and have been dancing for at least one year. Complete applications are available on Council's website, www.squaredance.org, or you can request one via e-mail at CAYouthSqrs@aol.com or by calling (916) 649-2714.