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**HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR TO SHARE HER CONCENTRATION CAMP
EXPERIENCE WITH CAST AND AUDIENCE OF *YOURS, ANNE***

**HER WORK WITH CAST IS PART OF
TOTAL LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

SAN DIEGO – Dr. Edith Eva Eger was just 16 years old in 1944 when she and her family were sent to the Nazi death camp, Auschwitz. Her story has remarkable parallels with the story of 14-year-old Anne Frank, whose famous diary, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, has been adapted for the musical play *YOURS, ANNE*, a production of J*Company Youth Theatre running December 2 through 10 at the David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center. Eger has been called “the Anne Frank who survived.” She will share her experience at “A Dialogue with Dr. Edie” following the opening night performance of *YOURS, ANNE* on **December 2**.

Eger’s parents died at Auschwitz, but in 1945, when the American Army liberated the camp, a young soldier noticed Eger’s hand moving slightly as she lay with others in a mass grave. He quickly summoned medical help and she was brought back from the brink of death. At the time of her rescue Eger weighed 40 pounds and had suffered a broken back.

Eger has worked with the young cast of *YOURS, ANNE*, sharing her insights into the plight of a young teenager in a threatening world, and the positive lessons she learned from her experiences. Some of her advice includes: “The quality of your decisions determines the quality of your life,” “You can’t always control your circumstances, but you can control how you respond to them,” and “Although you may walk through the Valley of Death, don’t set up camp there!”

Some years after the war, Eger and her husband moved to the United States. She has a clinical psychology practice in La Jolla and a faculty appointment at UCSD. She is also a prolific author and has appeared on numerous television programs including “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” and was the primary subject of a holocaust documentary that appeared on Dutch National Television. She is frequently invited to speak for organizations throughout the United States, Mexico, and abroad.

“Dr. Edie is a wonderful resource for the kids,” said J*Company Artistic Director Joey Landwehr. “She is an amazing role model for overcoming adversity through perseverance and by remaining positive and hopeful.”

Eger’s work with the cast is part of the total learning experience Landwehr plans for all J*Company Youth Theatre productions. He has given cast members a diary and asked them to record their experiences and thoughts throughout the rehearsal and performance period, just as Anne Frank did. They have also turned in a written analysis of the characters they play. This has been particularly helpful for members of the ensemble, who have taken the identities of real people who were involved in the Holocaust.

“It’s exciting to hear the kids come in with their character analysis and tell me how much fun it was to do their ‘homework’ and to create/learn about who their characters are in the play. In a sense they created their own characters,” said Landwehr.

Another learning experience for the cast that will also be shared with audience members is “Inside Anne Frank’s House,” a life-size re-creation of the attic where Anne and her family hid for more than two years from the Nazis during World War II. The exhibit will be on display at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center during the run of *YOURS, ANNE*. A tour of the Anne Frank house is included in the ticket price for *YOURS, ANNE*.

YOURS, ANNE runs Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from December 2 through 10.

Production dates and times:

Saturday, December 2, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 3, 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 9, 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10, 4:00 p.m.

The David and Dorothea Garfield Theatre at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is located at 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla. Tickets for *YOURS, ANNE* and a tour of the Anne Frank house are \$12.50 for children and \$16.50 for adults. They are available online at www.lfjcc.org or by phone at 858-362-1348. A complete listing of production dates and show times are online at www.lfjcc.org/jcompany.

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About the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture

The San Diego Center for Jewish Culture is the largest Jewish institution in San Diego dedicated solely to presenting high quality, nationally recognized programs which are unique to San Diego County. The mission of the SDCJC is to expand and enrich cultural life in San Diego by presenting the finest in Jewish artistic expression, encouraging the preservation of Jewish culture and heritage, and nurturing new creativity in the arts. A core belief of the SDCJC is to promote respect for diverse cultures and build community tolerance.

The SDCJC offers a wide variety of multi-disciplinary artistic programs that explore cultural identities and perspectives, promote cross cultural understanding, and highlight human themes of family, tolerance, compassion, and hope. These programs, including the San Diego Jewish Film Festival, the San Diego Jewish Book Fair, New Jewish Plays Project, the Celebrating Jewish Music Concert Series, a Holocaust Education Program, and the J*Company Youth Theatre, foster ideas of cultural appreciation and respect. Its facilities feature a 500-seat theatre, a Judaica library, an art gallery, and a community Holocaust Memorial Garden. Approximately 40,000 tickets are sold or provided annually to residents, visitors, and students for San Diego Center for Jewish Culture events.

About the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS

The mission of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is to provide social, cultural, educational, and recreational programs to individuals and families of all ages, religions, races, and financial, physical and mental abilities. Likewise, the JCC provides equal opportunity employment to individuals of all religions and backgrounds. The JCC welcomes San Diego's diverse Jewish community and the community at large. The Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS is located at 4126 Executive Drive in La Jolla.



SAN DIEGO CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, JACOBS FAMILY CAMPUS

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