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February 24, 2011

**COLLEGE OF THE DESERT FOUNDATION
PRESENTS
“ONE ENCHANTED EVENING IV”**

Thursday, February 24, 2011 at McCallum Theatre

PALM DESERT, CA – On Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., College of the Desert Foundation hosted “*One Enchanted Evening IV.*” This annual fundraising benefit, which is College of the Desert Foundation’s primary fundraising event of the season, was performed on stage at the McCallum Theatre. Some of the most talented performers from throughout the Valley performed in this Show, including Alumni from past College of the Desert musical productions.

Special guest artist performing this year was BROADWAY STAR AND TONY AWARD NOMINEE, DONNA THEODORE. Paul Cracchiolo and Downstream Productions created this year’s performance. Mr. Cracchiolo was Producer of this year’s production, working closely with Musical Director Scott Smith and Choreographer Lisa King, a COD Alumni.

“We are proud to present this exciting event, and equally excited and pleased to have the continuing support of Wells Fargo as our Presenting Sponsor again this year,” stated Co-chairs Peggy Cravens and Jean C. Carrus. “Wells Fargo’s support of College of the Desert in these difficult economic times is greatly appreciated by the many who could not otherwise afford to get a college education. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser promote educational success through scholarships, services, and much-needed programs for the students we serve at COD,” continued Co-Chairs Cravens and Carrus.

Earl and Penny Mason were this year’s Honorary Chairs.

“*One Enchanted Evening IV*” consisted of TWO parts. ACT ONE was a retrospective and tribute to the work and choreography of long time College of the Desert faculty member, Michele Gaines. The cast for Part One consisted of former students, contemporaries, teachers, and friends celebrating Ms. Gaines’ uniquely beautiful work in song, theatre, and dance. Several dance studios from throughout the Valley participated by performing some original pieces choreographed and/or inspired by Ms. Gaines. Selections from past College of the Desert productions such as *Cabaret*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Gypsy*, *Into the Woods*, and *Man of La Mancha* were represented in this segment from solos to full production numbers.

ACT TWO of the production featured Broadway Star and Tony Award Nominee Donna Theodore in *A Date With Judy*, a pops concert tribute to the late, great Judy Garland. Accompanied by a live orchestra under the baton of Maestro Don Martin, Ms. Theodore rolled through the years telling stories and singing all of Judy’s biggest hits. Donna Theodore has traveled the world performing this show to rave reviews and even had the opportunity to perform it at the esteemed Carnegie Hall. College of the Desert Foundation was honored to have Ms. Theodore perform on its behalf, marking her third year as a performer for “*One Enchanted Evening*.”

Some of this year’s top sponsors included Wells Fargo and Prime Time International, Judy Allen and Jim Hummer- Big Horn Charities, Jean C. Carrus, Donald & Peggy Cravens, Heather James Fine Art, Donna & Cargill MacMillan, Dr. Earl & Penny Mason, Sally Simonds, C.W. Driver, COD Alumni Assoc., Diane & Hal Gershowitz, Robert & Beverly Chell, Mark & Joann Nickerson, The Coeta & Donald Barker Foundation, PALM SPRINGS LIFE MAGAZINE, KMIR & KPSE TV, THE DESERT SUN, SEASON IN THE SUN MASTER CALENDAR, and PROGRESSIVE TALK AM 1450 KPTR PALM SPRINGS AND THE JACQUELINE BACHAR SHOW.

ABOUT COLLEGE OF THE DESERT (COD) FOUNDATION

The Mission of the COD Foundation is to enhance the quality of higher education in the Coachella Valley and encourage public and private support for College of the Desert.

The Foundation’s Vision is to positively impact the lives of students who are striving to achieve a purposeful education and to enhance the communities of the Coachella Valley and beyond, by providing them with the professional benefits of our skilled graduates.

The College of the Desert Foundation has raised more than \$35 million in support over the last 12 years, has given the College over \$15 million and

manages assets, such as Endowments, of over \$17 million. Through these funds, the Foundation will provide vital support for programs and services to benefit College of the Desert and its students for generations to come.

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