



Diablo Regional Arts Association

performing great works

artsline

Summer 2007

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DRAA and the Lesher Center Kick Off On Broadway – the Fundraising Gala of the Year

Plans are underway for the 2007 gala fundraiser, *On Broadway*, which is being held Saturday, October 13, 2007 at Diablo Country Club. This year's theme is "Life, You Gotta Love It" and everything from the production numbers to raffle prizes will reflect the "realities" of life.

productions to the Center possible. If you are interested in attending *On Broadway*, please send an e-mail to info@draa.org with your contact information and we will be sure to send you an invitation. This event sells out every year so be sure to get your RSVP in soon for the event of the year!

The event, now in its 12th year, features a spectacular, one-of-a-kind Broadway musical production, gourmet meal, live & silent auctions and non-stop entertainment. All funds are allocated to the Diablo Regional Arts Association and the Lesher Center for the Arts to continue bringing the highest quality



Join Us
October 13, 2007

There's much more
ONLINE

Join DRAA's online mailing list to receive our informative, monthly e-newsletter: **Artsline Online!** Sign up today at www.draa.org

Be the first to receive information, invitations and special offers from DRAA and the Lesher Center for the Arts!



On Broadway Sponsor Tiffany & Co. Takes the Spotlight

For the past four years, **Tiffany & Co.** has participated in *On Broadway* as a Spotlight Raffle sponsor. At the end of the night, one lucky guest walks away with a piece of coveted Tiffany & Co. jewelry. This year's item is a spectacular "Celebration" ring set, complete with a personal "Breakfast at Tiffany's" to make your choice.

with store manager Jennifer George to celebrate this fantastic partnership (and try on some jewels). *(continued page A6)*



On Broadway Co-Chair Kris Leshler-Aring, DRAA Executive Director Peggy White and Tiffany & Co. Store Manager Jennifer George celebrate a great partnership.

Recently, the ladies of the *On Broadway* committee met at the Walnut Creek Tiffany & Co. store



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Director's Corner

Peggy White,
Executive Director

What an exciting summer we have ahead of us here at the Leshar Center for the Arts! DRAA is proud to partner with the City of Walnut Creek and the LCA for the first-ever Chevron Family Theatre Festival on Saturday, July 28. This event promises to be the highlight of the summer for the community, as the Leshar Center is transformed into a festive and bustling hub of family-friendly entertainment and activities. With world-class performers like The Sippy Cups, Activated Storytellers and Leslie Carrara, this is an event not to be missed! We hope you will join us on July 28 as we celebrate all that the arts bring to the community.

Another huge event for DRAA and the Leshar Center is *On Broadway: Life. You Gotta Love It!* occurring Saturday, October 13. Now in its 12th year, *On Broadway* gives arts lovers a VIP night out. Complete with a one-of-a-kind Broadway musical production, gourmet meal, live and silent auctions and much more, *On Broadway* is your chance to celebrate the arts with others who share your passion.

We look forward to seeing you at the Center this summer and at *On Broadway* this fall!

DRAA Funds New Websites for Leshar Center, Center REP

DRAA is pleased to play a part in the revitalization of two staple websites: LesharARTSCenter.org and CenterREPertory.org. Both sites are currently undergoing a complete facelift, including new graphics, navigation and features. In addition, a new logo is being developed for the Leshar Center. Work on these exciting projects will continue through the summer in hopes of being in place by the beginning of the 2007-2008 season in the fall. Keep your eyes (and browsers) open for the changes!



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Chevron Family Theatre Festival - July 28

Just imagine hanging out with Peter Pan himself, sword fighting in the street with a "real" pirate, watching a lively folktale come to life before your eyes, and finishing the day off by grooving to the tunes of The Sippy Cups. Your kids might even have fun too! A full day of family entertainment awaits at the Chevron Family Theatre Festival on July 28. This event will shake up Walnut Creek like nothing else before. Be sure to mark your calendar for the festivities, which begin at 10am. A complete schedule of performances and ticket information is listed at LesherARTSCenter.org. In addition to those world-class performances, a non-stop array of free entertainment and activities will occur outside the Center complete with food, costumed characters and yes . . . face painting.



The Sippy Cups will rock the Hofmann Theatre for two performances.
Photo: Leigh Ann Maze (courtesy of Half Moon Bay Review)

Target Family Time Begins with *Peter Pan*



Last year's Target Family Time Series at the Lesher Center was such a success that Target has agreed to generously support another season, beginning on Saturday, September 22 with DLOC's highly anticipated production of *Peter Pan*. Buy-one, get-one free tickets are available for this production, and prime seats are being held just for those who use the "Target" code word when ordering tickets. Tickets can be purchased by calling 925.943.SHOW after July 10. Additional Target Family Time performances will be announced soon. Visit draa.org/target for more information.

DRAA Welcomes New Board Member

DRAA is proud to welcome the newest member to its Board of Directors. **Dan Udouch**, owner of several local Duxiana stores, including Walnut Creek, brings an extensive knowledge of business and marketing to his new role. With a strong background in technology, including work with IBM and Netscape, in addition to a love for the arts, Dan promises to be a stellar addition to the team!





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Encore! for Educators Event Recognizes Teachers with Evening of VIP Treatment

The first Encore! for Educators event, held April 17, 2007 at the Leshner Center for the Arts, was a great success, bringing together nearly 200 educators for a night celebrating all they bring to the community.

The event, the result of a partnership between WaMu and the Diablo Regional Arts Association, began with a reception in the Bedford Gallery followed by a performance of Center REPeritory Company's Bingo! The Musical. During the performance, the audience was



The Bingo winners were welcomed on stage following the production for a photo with the cast:

- \$150 for her class (+ \$150 for her school) Kindergarten teacher Stacy Cerruti from Walnut Heights Elementary in Walnut Creek
- \$250 for her class (+ \$250 for her school) Second Grade teacher Kate Guidi from Highlands Elementary in Pittsburg
- \$500 for her class (+ \$500 for her school) First Grade teacher Lori Cattarusa from Cambridge Elementary in Concord

invited to play Bingo and three lucky teachers walked away with prizes ranging from \$300 - \$1,000 in cash for their classes and schools, provided by WaMu as well as field trips for their entire grade level to the Leshner Center provided by DRAA's Arts Access program.

The *Encore! for Educators* event was brought to DRAA by Board Member and WaMu First Vice President Scott Mac Cormac who was inspired by WaMu buying out Broadway in New York for teachers. He decided to do the same locally and buy out a performance at the Leshner Center. According to Scott, "This event is WaMu's way of thanking local educators for all they bring to the community. The teachers attending this event work incredibly hard and deserve an evening of celebration."



At left: Mayor of Walnut Creek Sue Rainey and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph Owick attended the event, and stayed for the show!



Partner Focus WaMu

DRAA salutes WaMu for the part it played in the first Encore! for Educators event. First Vice President Scott Mac Cormac was instrumental in making his vision a reality. In addition to Scott's involvement, twenty one managers from local WaMu branches volunteered their time to the event, passing out gifts and information and ensuring the teachers received truly VIP service.



Donor Focus The Estate of Miriam Lar Rieu



Walnut Creek inspires many of us to devote our lives to family and community, but no one defined the role better or more graciously than long-time resident Miriam H. Lar Rieu, who was known as Jerry to her friends.

"She generously gave her time, ideas, and financial support to the causes she loved most and DRAA is honored to be among the organizations that she respected."

— Peggy White,
DRAA Executive Director

As a young girl living in Walnut Creek, Jerry and her family became good friends with DRAA Trustee Sally Ingraham. The two friends worked together for 15 years on the board to build the Lesher Center. Mrs. Lar Rieu used her intellect and financial gifts to make a difference for the arts. In 2006, DRAA received a generous bequest from the Miriam Lar Rieu Estate. The interest from these funds will be restricted to support specific projects that will enhance the quality of the Lesher Center for the Arts, which she loved so dearly.



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From the Board



Gil Berkeley,
President

I am thrilled to announce that DRAA is poised to meet its financial goal of raising one million dollars for the arts this year! This is an incredible accomplishment that positions the organization for continued success for years to come.

The funds raised this year are going to good use. Artistic excellence is increasing by leaps and bounds at the Leshar Center as new companies including Chamber Music SF have wowed audiences with their stellar performances.

DRAA's outreach program, Arts Access, is another area that has benefited from increased funding. Arts Access brings the arts to local low-income students and other individuals who may not otherwise have the means to attend a performance at the Center. In 2007, more than 4,000 individuals facing various challenges will be able to attend high-quality professional performances at the LCA.

This success is thanks in large part to the donations made by individuals like yourself. DRAA could not survive without this generosity. In addition, corporate support is stronger than ever with record-breaking funding from Chevron and Target allowing us to support the arts like never before!

Save the Date – On Broadway: Life, You Gotta Love It!



2007 On Broadway Committee

Co-chairs:
Kris Leshar-Aring &
Scott Mac Cormac

- Susie Fisher
- Diane Gilcrest
- Hunter Gilliam
- Brian Hirahara
- Laura Hunter
- Carolina Katz
- Mackenzie Leshar
- Alisa Mac Cormac
- Dave Marshburn
- Sue McNulty Rainey
- Kevin Sanchez
- Ranjit Sufi
- Michael White (Producer)
- Peggy White (Executive Director)

The 2007 *On Broadway* Committee gathered to kick-off this year's event and unveil the theme: Life, You Gotta Love It! Producer Michael White shared highlights from the amazing, high-energy production he's planning, which will feature a variety of numbers from recent blockbuster musicals performed by some of the area's best talent. This entertaining look at the "realities" of life promises to be a show not to be missed! To add your name to the *On Broadway* invitation mailing list, please send an e-mail to info@draa.org. We hope you can join the party!



For your chance to win Tiffany & Co. jewelry as modeled here by the ladies of our *On Broadway* committee, be sure to join us on October 13.



Diablo Regional Arts Association

To Our Current Donors, THANK YOU!

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Arts Access Coordinator

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Individuals

Individuals provide the greatest level of support to DRAA programs and events. These gifts have significant impact on the success of the Leshner Center for the Arts.

Showstoppers: \$5,000 and above

Steve & Kris Aring, Gary & Susie Fisher, Loella & Ralph Haskew, Brian & Lyn Hirahara, Sally & Dick Ingraham, Scott & Alisa Mac Cormac, Kevin & Beverly Sánchez, Eric Rudney

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Artists: \$125 – \$249

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