



Diablo Regional Arts Association

*performing great works*

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### DRAA Partners with WaMu for Teacher Appreciation Gala

**WALNUT CREEK, CA. March 26, 2007** — The Diablo Regional Arts Association is proud to partner with WaMu to provide a special experience for Walnut Creek educators on **Tuesday, April 17** at the Leshner Center for the Arts. The *Encore! for Educators* event is an opportunity for select teachers to experience a complimentary reception the Bedford Gallery and Leshner Theatre lobby, followed by a performance of Center REPeritory Company's *Bingo! A Winning Musical*. Teachers will be introduced to the high-quality programs offered at the Leshner Center for the Arts for them personally as well as school-time programs. They will receive V.I.P. treatment, including a customized free gift as well as the opportunity to win a number of door prizes, including field trips for their school. This year's event will honor teachers from Walnut Creek. The plan is to rotate to a different community every year.

This program was brought to DRAA by Board Member and WaMu First Vice President, Scott MacCormac who was inspired by WaMu buying out Broadway in New York for teachers, so he decided to do the same locally and buy out 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."

DRAA's Executive Director Peggy White is enthusiastic about the event: "We are so happy to bring such a deserving audience to the Center and inform them of all the Leshner Center and DRAA has to offer teachers and students."

***Encore! for Educators*** has been developed by the Diablo Regional Arts Association in partnership with corporate sponsors to recognize and reward teachers for their exceptional contribution to our students and community. Teachers will be treated to a reception and performance and be introduced to the resources and programs at the Leshner Center for the Arts. This will be an annual program that is rotated throughout the communities of Contra Costa County.

The Diablo Regional Arts Association along with its generous sponsors are committed to creating an ongoing relationship with local schools and educators to introduce the diverse, high-quality art programs available at the Leshner Center for the Arts. Through *Encore! for Educators*, teachers will enjoy the recognition they deserve, and experience first hand a sample of the full spectrum of opportunities at the Leshner Center for the Arts, including drama, musical theatre, dance, opera, music, and the visual arts.

#### About DRAA

Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA), the funding arm of the Leshner Center for the Arts (LCA), is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to enriching the quality of artistic programming within the LCA and to creating avenues for everyone to enjoy the arts. We accomplish this mission through exemplary leadership and funding. More info: [www.draa.org](http://www.draa.org)

#### About WaMu

WaMu, through its subsidiaries, is one of the nation's leading consumer and small business banks. At December 31, 2006, WaMu and its subsidiaries had assets of \$346.29 billion. The company has a history dating back to 1889 and its subsidiary banks currently operate more than 2,600 consumer and small business banking stores throughout the nation. WaMu's press releases are available at <http://newsroom.wamu.com>.