

Ridgefield Arts Council Honors Volunteers with its Annual Behind the Scenes Award

The Ridgefield Community Center was ablaze with light, conversation and wonderful refreshments on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 when the Ridgefield Arts Council presented its annual Behind the Scenes Award to an outstanding volunteer for one of the non-profit arts organizations in Ridgefield.

There were seven deserving nominees this year and the Council decided to honor all of them.

Sarah Bouissou was nominated by the Ridgefield Music and Arts Center as a true supporter of the arts in Ridgefield and a generous donor of her property, food, expertise and service.

Robert Faesy was the nominee of the Weir Farm Art Center for his 17 years as a dedicated volunteer at the center.

David Foster was the nominee of The Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra for his 3 ½ years as the Orchestra's treasurer and his many hours of volunteering in the Orchestra office.

Chris Pike was nominated by C.H.I.R.P. and Acoustic Celebrations for his assistance to these musical organizations and for lending equipment, selling tickets and financial support.

The Ridgefield Guild of Artists nominated Joe Sladek for his 18 years as the RGA Treasurer and for his selfless donation of his time.

Tammy Strom was nominated by the Ridgefield Chorale for her 9 years of volunteering, in addition to singing with the chorale and other volunteer projects.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum nominated Barbara Toplin who has been a volunteer there for 21 years in various capacities.

After an hour of socializing with delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by Council Member Kay Mayr and champagne and wine, and entertainment by Gabrielle Bouissou (violin) and Nick Heinzmann (cello), members of The Ridgefield Symphony Youth Orchestra, the guests moved to the ballroom for the presentation.

Peggy Thomas, the Council member who was chairman of the event, greeted the audience and presented the nominees. Barbara Toplin was named the winner of this year's Behind the Scenes Award in honor of her many years of service to the Aldrich. First Selectman Rudy Marconi presented the award to Ms. Toplin and thanked all of the candidates and the many other volunteers who contribute the time and effort that makes Ridgefield a wonderful town in which to live.

Further information about the activities of the Ridgefield Arts Council may be found on their web site at www.ridgefieldartscouncil.org.