

**Ridgefield Arts Council honors Peter Sayer's many years of help
Stopper also commended for work with the council**

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The Ridgefield Arts Council presented the third annual Behind the Scenes Award to Peter Sayer. Monday, March 12, at a reception. First Selectman Rudy Marconi read a proclamation honoring Mr. Sayer at the event. The Behind the Scenes Award was inaugurated three years ago to honor Dr. Joseph P. Dailey, one of the founding members of the arts council and a previous president of the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra.

All arts organizations were invited to nominate one of their volunteers for this award.

The award was presented to Phyllis Robertson of Keeler Tavern in 2005 and to Robert Strom of The Ridgefield Chorale in 2006.

In her nominating letter, Laurie Bradbury, president of The Ridgefield Chorale, said, "Pete has been a mainstay in the bass section of The Ridgefield Chorale since he joined the singers in 1985." In addition, Ms. Bradbury said that "Pete was responsible for the visual presentation of the extensive silent auction during The Ridgefield Chorale's benefit concert ... that raised an unprecedented amount of money."

Mr. Sayer, an architect, has been a resident of Ridgefield for 33 years. During that time he has been sharing his design skills with The Ridgefield Theater Barn, Founders Hall and the Ridgefield School of Dance. He was previously honored with a Life Achievement Award from The Theater Barn in 2004.

A surprise of the evening was the presentation of a special award to William G. Stopper. Mr. Stopper was also an early member of the arts council and recently retired from the council. He had been the treasurer and was also responsible for collating all of the information from the various arts groups in Ridgefield for a comprehensive community calendar.

In addition, Mr. Stopper was responsible for the Ridgefield Arts Council's Web site.

Mr. Marconi issued a proclamation honoring Mr. Stopper.

All of the arts groups in town were invited to the reception, as was the general public. A quartet from the Ridgefield Symphony Youth Orchestra (Queenie Chan and Gabrielle Bouissou, violinists, Annie Wang, viola and Nick Heinzmann, cello) played a number of selections for the enjoyment of the audience. Champagne and hors d'oeuvres were served.

Nancy Baldwin, chairman of The Ridgefield Arts Council, said, "Pete Sayer and Bill Stopper were invaluable to the arts organizations in town and the arts council is delighted to honor them."

She also thanked Kay Mayr, a member of the arts council, for organizing the evening's festivities.

For more information, please contact Nancy Baldwin at 431-6134 or by e-mail to NanCBaldwin@aol.com.

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