

*The Governor's Awards
for Excellence in
Culture & Tourism is an
event that brings together
individuals from the arts,
history, tourism and film
industries for an evening of
celebration.*

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Atrium at the

Legislative Office Building

300 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, Connecticut

5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Awards ceremony

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Reception

RSVP

Seating in the Atrium at the Legislative

Office Building is limited. No tickets

required, however, please RSVP by April

3rd to Rhonda.Olisky@ct.gov,

860-256-2752

**CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON
CULTURE & TOURISM**

**GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE
IN CULTURE & TOURISM**

DISTINGUISHED ADVOCATES AWARDS

2008



These
awards
are for the
people who
embody
the best
in us all.



These men and women have not only achieved a level of excellence, they have also shared their accomplishments with us and made our lives better. The arts, culture, history and tourism are the elements of the human spirit that allow us to express ourselves, understand our past and find the things that rejuvenate our spirit.

On behalf of the State of Connecticut, I congratulate this year's winners and extend the gratitude of every citizen who have been touched by their talents.

M. Jodi Rell

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Governor



**Connecticut Commission
on Culture & Tourism**

Governor's Awards for Excellence

Recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Culture & Tourism are selected based on magnitude of achievement, the level of recognition brought by achievement and sustained contribution to the field and the state. They must be residents of Connecticut.

Michael Wilson, artistic director, Hartford

Wilson is the artistic director of the Tony Award winning Hartford Stage. Since 1998, he has made the Stage into "the people's theatre" offering innovative programming and attracting new and diverse audiences. Under his leadership, Hartford Stage has emerged as a national center for theatrical activity and become a vital institution of community discourse in the state.

Joan D. Hedrick, author and educator, Middletown

Hedrick is the Charles A. Dana Professor of History at Trinity College in Hartford and winner of a Pulitzer Prize in 1995 for her biography of Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Harriet Beecher Stowe: A Life*.

Gene Wilder, actor, Stamford

Wilder has a long and storied career from Broadway stage to silver screen as a writer and an actor. Wilder has been nominated for both the Golden Globes and Academy Awards and won an Emmy for his work on the TV show "Will & Grace".

Vita West Muir, founder of Litchfield Jazz Festival, Litchfield

Muir is the executive and artistic director of Litchfield Performing Arts since 1989 and founder of the Litchfield Jazz Camp and the Litchfield Jazz Festival, named one of the "Top 100 Events" in the US and Canada.



Genius of Connecticut

The award statuette, sculpted for CCT by Connecticut artist David Boyajian, is affectionately known as *CONNie*. It is a replica of Randolph Roger's statue entitled "The Genius of Connecticut" done in 1878. The original bronze figure was created to sit atop of the Connecticut State Capitol. The original model stands in the north lobby of the State Capitol Building.

Distinguished Advocates Awards

Recipients of the Distinguished Advocate Awards are Connecticut residents who, without monetary compensation, have worked to strengthen, preserve or promote the arts, history, film and tourism in the state and made a significant impact on one or more organizations, or have made important contributions to their communities, regions or the state.

John Solum, Westport, co-founder of the Connecticut Early Music Festival and volunteer preservationist of work by Connecticut artist James Daugherty.

Roslyn Milstein Meyer, New Haven;
Jean M. Handley, Guilford; and
Anne Tyler Calabresi, Woodbridge, co-founders of and volunteers with the International Festival of Arts & Ideas.

Janet Mason Tracy, Farmington, for her efforts and dedication to the Noah Webster House in West Hartford and the West Hartford Historical Society.

Alfred Narcisse, Windsor, for his efforts to promote the Connecticut Freedom Trail in Windsor, Connecticut

Joyce Bolanos, West Hartford and
Jose Vega, Hartford, for their volunteer service as co-hosts of VIVA HARTFORD!

Ira Joe Fisher, Ridgefield and
Morton Dean, Ridgefield, for their volunteer service with the Ridgefield Playhouse Film Society.

Louise Pupelis, Norwalk, for her volunteer service at the Lockwood Mathews Mansion.

Bill LaRoue, New London, for his dedicated service as head docent at the New London Custom House Maritime Museum.



**Connecticut Commission
on Culture & Tourism**

One Constitution Plaza
Second floor
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism brings together tourism, film, history and the arts. Its mission is to preserve and promote Connecticut's cultural and tourism assets in order to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality of the state. The Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism is located at One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, Connecticut. For more information, log on to www.cultureandtourism.org.