

# Youth Council Honors Summer Show

## *Teen Theater a Vital Tradition in Port*

Port's Summer Show will be the honoree at the Port Washington Youth Council's fourth fundraising Cabaret on Oct. 27. This theater company has produced a show that highlights the talents of local teenagers since 1987.

"Summer Show was born around Karen Osterman's kitchen table," says Youth Council Executive Director Regina Farinaccio. "We wanted to continue our community's tradition of teen theater and worked out a way to do just that under the auspices of the Youth Council."

Port's Summer Show grew out of the teen theater that had been produced by residents Ron and Pam Meadows for many years. Since those initial meetings – attended by Tegwen Epstein, Pat Blumlein, Kendall Walsh and Bess Mulvihill – the group has put on 14 shows, all starring local teens working in partnership with parents and volunteers from all over town. "That's one of the unique features of the Summer Show," says past President Laura Mogul. "We pull in people from all over the community who donate their time and talent."

The list of presidents offers a glimpse of dedicated volunteers who gave up their summers to produce these shows – Bess Mulvihill, Pat Blumlein, Dennis McCullough, Andrea Martone, Fran Foster, Chris Burwell, Rosemary Borris and Laura Mogul and the current co-presidents, Emily Hanlon and Martha Malone. Also on board since the beginning are Helen Albertson and her husband Richie, who participate in every aspect of the show and Frank Hefferin, of Hefferin Tree Service, who hangs the banner across Main Street every year as soon as the paint is dry.

While the Youth Council provides insurance coverage and nonprofit status, the Summer Show raises its own funds and has found a dedicated benefactor in Robert L. Harding, Jr., who has been a longtime and generous supporter.

Summer Show offers young actors and theater lovers a chance to work with different people and try out acting, singing and dancing in both traditional and non-traditional musicals. While *Bye Bye Birdie* played to a sold out house this summer, the group has also put on productions like *Star Mites*, an imaginative and little-known show that developed quite a following and *Babes in Arms*, which was the first presentation of the original 1939 version. In between, most of the community has been in the auditorium for shows that ranged from *42nd Street* to *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Finian's Rainbow* to *The Pajama Game* and *The Redhead* to *No, No, Nanette*. Young stars have included Adam Richman, Rachel Mann, Jason Hare, Marissa Fenech, Allison Newman all the way up to the current leading men and women: Stephanie Borris, Jessica Buettner, Ned Hanlon and Brad Tashman.

The Port Washington Youth Council was established in 1981 by a group of adults who were concerned about the young people in our community. Along with the Honorable Vincent R. Balletta, the pastor of the Methodist Church, the chief of police, the principal of Schreiber High School, citizens and parents began a youth-adult partnership program that continues today in large part through the operation of the Teen Center in the Landmark on Main Street Community Center. The Cabaret invitations have been mailed – if you did not receive one and would like to attend, please call Regina Farinaccio at 767-1639.