



Photo by Geoff Powers

Molly Gebler presents Mary Ann Ponce the chamber award for business of the year.

Film fest named business of the year by Chagrin Valley Chamber

By BARBARA CHRISTIAN

Suspense was in the air last week as more than 200 Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce members, their guests and area residents rubbed shoulders in the lobby of Chagrin Cinemas in Bainbridge and partied like it was Oscar night in Hollywood.

The event on March 22 was the chamber's annual awards night with the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival named business of the year, Michael Henry of Henry Real Estate Group named member of the year and Jo and Bob Royer given the President's Merit Award.

The big reveal didn't happen initially as guests enjoyed food, drink and each other as they mingled inside the movie house.

Who knew a movie theater lobby would be the perfect place to throw a party, was the rhetorical question of the evening. The chamber's visionary "mother of invention" and Executive Director Molly Gebler, that's who.

It was her brainchild to hold this year's business awards and scholarship evening at the theater and, together with chamber membership and marketing coordinator Helen Kuznik, pulled off what would be a spectacular and memorable evening.

An evening of recognitions and awards

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