

AROUND TOWN

For Diane DelVecchio

Rob Fried and Friends will perform at benefit

by JENNIFER WASTROM

Legendary singer songwriter Billy Joel has been quoted as saying, "I think music itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by."

Local musician Rob Fried is a passionate believer in the power of music, which is why he and his group, "Rob Fried and Friends," did not hesitate when asked to play at a one-of-a-kind venue in two weeks. On Thursday evening, May 19, the Ridgefield Playhouse will open its doors for a cocktail reception called "A Night for Diane." Diane is Diane DelVecchio, a wife, mother, and dear member of the Redding community who is currently fighting a horrendous battle against pancreatic cancer. Many of her friends have rallied to organize this affair in an effort to provide assistance for the benefit and well-being of the DelVecchio family and to help with the astronomical medical costs.

The evening will begin at 6:30; an extensive assortment of hors d'oeuvres and desserts donated from restaurants throughout the area will be offered. Music by "Rob Fried and Friends" will be a highlight of the night, as well as a treasure-filled silent auction.

"Any and all are invited and are encouraged to attend this social event of the spring," said Jennifer Urquhart, chair of the event. "This party is so much more than a chance to gather and enjoy wonderful music, food and friends... it is a chance to make a dif-

ference for a neighbor in need."

Tickets cost \$75 per person. For more information, e-mail Wendy Stauffer at Wstaufdes@aol.com or call Jennifer Urquhart at 938-0152.

'Meaningful'

"I can only imagine how frightened and helpless the DelVecchio family must feel as they undergo this nightmare. Playing on May 19 will be an incredibly meaningful performance for us; we're honored to be able to help in this small way," said musician Rob Fried. A bassist and vocalist, Mr. Fried has performed at clubs and music festivals in the Connecticut area for the past 20 years, performing as the opening act for Manhattan Transfer, BB King and YES. As a composer, he has written about 40 songs, several of which have been recorded and are performed with his music group.

This group, "Rob Fried & Friends," covers traditional and contemporary jazz styles including Brazilian, Latin and R&B. Joining Mr. Fried on May 19 will be Robert Aries on keyboards, Ed Chervansky on guitar and Chris Pike on drums. Sound engineer Lon England will be working sound for the event.

For more information on Rob Fried, visit his Web site at robfriedmusic.com. Mr. Fried also plays in the band "Bone Dry," which will be performing at Bobby Q's restaurant on Main Street in Westport on Saturday, May 14.

Donated

All of the edible fare at "A Night for Diane" will be donated from an impressive list of area eateries. These include Clemens Restaurant and the Spinning Wheel in Redding, The Redding Country Club, The Olive Market, The Georgetown Saloon and Rancho Allegro in Georgetown, and the Whistlestop Bakery, The Corner Pub, The Ancient Mariner, Gringo Café, The Ridgefield Food Company and Starbucks in Ridgefield. Other establishments include The Cobbs Mill Inn, The Three Bears Restaurant, Lady Fingers Catering, Greenwoods in Bethel, Trader Joe's and the Stop & Shop food store chain in Danbury, Caraluzzi's Market, Ancona's Wine and Liquor Store and the Neugold family. The décor is being coordinated by Greg Fisk of Fisk & Company along with the Confetti shop in Georgetown and The Ridgefield Playhouse.

Invitations for "A Night for Diane" have been sent via e-mail in order to save money on postage and printing costs. Places of worship, school groups, the Boys and Girls Club, the Democratic Town Committee, the Boy Scouts and other organizations in Redding have generously agreed to help spread the word about this special evening. People who would like to receive and invitation or make a donation are asked to contact Jennifer Urquhart at 938-0152.