

Raffle Winners Announced at Books in Bloom

By Carol Garey, Ways and Means Chairman

The culmination of the bi-annual raffle sponsored by the Friends of Eldredge Public Library was held at “Books in Bloom” on Saturday, August 22. It was the first time the raffle party was held in the library and included a wonderful new event. “Books in Bloom” featured floral interpretations of a favorite book by 12 of our local gardeners.

Floral designers included: Martha Burian, *Boys in the Boat*; Jan Capodilupo, *Gift from the Sea*; Barbara Cotnam, *The Living Landscape*; Barbara Dunn, *Miss Rumphius*; Betsy Evans, *The Color Purple*; Beth Holden, *One Morning in May*; Nancy Jones, *Peter Rabbit*; Mary McLaughlin, *That Old Cape Magic*; Jean Mangiafico, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*; Barbara Mustard, *Gone with the Wind*; Anne O’Brien, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, and Sharon Oudemool, *The Secret Garden*. Arrangements were placed in nooks and crannies on all three floors of the library which created an almost scavenger hunt atmosphere. Many people discovered places and things they never knew were in our library.

Marilyn Sink and Diane Karel called on over 30 loyal “libraryites” who contributed a fabulous array of food. Cash bars were set up both in the Reference Room and the Forgeron Room.

The raffle raised almost twice our goal, but dollars are not the only way to measure the success of an event. It was wonderful to see almost the entire library staff take time out of their personal lives to attend, many changing into their party duds after a full day of work. It is apparent how lucky we are to have such a dedicated staff.

During the evening there was an obvious feeling of pride and appreciation for our library. Smiles reigned as our “friends” wandered through the building.

At 7:00 pm the raffle winners were drawn in a crowded Forgeron Room filled with hopeful ticket holders. The evening was a win for all who attended, but those lucky enough to have their name pulled from the prize bags were: Jenna Newcombe: dinner for eight at Wequassett; Susan Wegner: Chatham Anglers basket; Lorraine Smith: antique Eldridge chart on table; Barbara Gibson: Chatham Sign Shop three-number sign; Erin Minichiello: scale replica dollhouse; Eric Hartell: Chatham Water Tour for 17; Martha Gregory: “With Pride and Glory” print; Winnie Lear: two-night stay at Chatham Bars Inn, and Ginny Hamblet: ocean-themed queen-size quilt.

Special thanks go to all the friends and merchants who made our raffle possible through their generous donations.

The Friends of the Eldredge Public Library look forward to using the proceeds from the raffle and “Books in Bloom” to continue to support the needs of our library.