

Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council
PO Box 386
Plymouth, NH 03264-0386
(603) 536-1182
Contact: Joy Nolan
Email: pfa@plymouth.edu

For Immediate Release

Here's Looking At You Kid!

Fran Gonsalves of Plymouth Big Winner at FOA Casablanca Casino Night

Plymouth, NH- May 2, 2007: Friends of the Arts first annual Casablanca Casino Night held Friday, April 27th at the Winnepeski Ballroom at Church Landing in Meredith was a big success thanks to local supporters. The inaugural Casablanca Casino Night turned out to be a sure bet for fun and excitement for everyone that attended. Aside from the gambling action, there was great food and spirits, a plethora of fabulous prizes, and wonderful music to dance the night away.

The Grand Prize for the evening was a .48 carat diamond pendant necklace, valued at \$1,000.00, which was donated by Paul Wolfson of Wolfson Jewelers in downtown Plymouth. It went to the highest winner of the evening, Fran Gonsalves, Special Education Director of SAU #48 from Plymouth, NH. "The catch phrase for the evening, at least from the women present, seemed to be, "I'm going to win that necklace!" said Friends of the Arts Board Member Maundy Mitchell. "And Fran was the lucky winner."

"We really wanted to hold a fundraising event in Meredith to raise awareness of Friends

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of the Arts in that area.” said FOA Executive Director Carole Ann Morrison. “There is a perception that because our office is based in Plymouth, we serve just Plymouth Schools. But we really serve all of Central New Hampshire and have been in the Meredith and Laconia Schools for over 34 years. This was the first time we got a chance to work with many of the Meredith businesses as many of our prizes were donated by them. I cannot tell you how gracious, generous, and wonderful they were to work with, and we are truly appreciative and thankful of all their generosity.”

Sponsors of the event included: Turner Consulting, Lakeside Plumbing & Heating, Ninth State Dance Studio, and EFI-Vutek. Prize Donations were received from: Squam Lakes Inn, Papermill Theatre, Harts Turkey Farm, Journey Jars, Silver Fox Inn, Golden Eagle Lodge, Town Square Condos, Personal Days, Meadow Brook Musical Arts Center, Barnstormers Theatre, Ben & Jerry’s, New Hampshire Music Festival, Waukegan Golf Club, Photographic Portraits, Inn at Mills Falls, Tracy-Wine Distributors, Nicole Buttermore, Mac-Durgins Business Systems, Special Moments, Renaissance Floral, Yikes Studio, Village Greenery, Wild Meadow Canoe, Wolfson Jewelry.

“The response we received on the evening was so positive,” said Allison Browne, lead FOA Board Member for the Casino Night. “At the end of the night, people were already talking about doing it again next year. It was really a hit with everyone and helped provide much needed support to enable FOA to continue to bring high quality Art Education opportunities to our schools and towns.”

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The mission of Friends of the Arts is to present quality visual and performing arts that are affordable and accessible to children and adults as both observers and participants. The Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council is dedicated to arts education, enrichment and improving the patronage and support of New Hampshire Artists. No individual will be turned away from participating in the programs due to insufficient funds. For more information call the Friends of the Arts office at (603)536-1182 or visit the website at www.friends-of-the-arts.org

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