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Majewski

CONTACT: Kelly

978-465-0999 x14

[kmajewski@jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org](mailto:kmajewski@jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org)

## **Annual Cookie Party Raises Close to \$2,000 for Geiger Crisis Center**

*Judging conducted by local Dawn Marie Shay, owner and operator of Plum Island Cookie Company*

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., December 11, 2012 – West Newbury resident, Julie Conover hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> annual “Golden Cookie Awards” with all proceeds of the evening totaling close to \$2,000 going to the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center. This is not your traditional cookie swap, each of her 40 guests were asked to come dressed in “red carpet” formal attire — Conover even placed a mini red carpet on her walkway for guests as they entered her house on Main Street. Along with their plates of cookie creations, they also were asked to bring a \$30 donation to the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center to commemorate the Center’s 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

Much like a typical cookie swap, the more than 40 different kinds of cookies ranged in flavors and styles. As they entered, guests received a paper swag bag, which included a cookie tin to fill and bring home, a ballot and a pen.

Once the votes were tallied, prizes were awarded:

- **Best Taste** – voted solely by Local Celebrity - *Dawn Marie Shay*, owner and operator of *Plum Island Cookie Company*: Pam Atwood
- **Best Store Bought**: Stephanie Conover (purchased at Greta’s Great Grains, NBPT – raspberry filled cookies)
- **Best Presentation**: Duo – Irene Mahoney & Jody Feudo (Naughty & Nice)
- **Best Overall**: Duo – Kristin Flaherty & Jenn Kutner (Barbie Ski House)

**Pam Atwood, of XX won ‘Best Taste’ Oatmeal Raisin Cookies**

3/4 cup sugar

1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar  
1/2 cup butter, softened  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1 egg  
3/4 cup all purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 cups quick-cooking rolled oats  
1/2 cup raisins  
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Heat oven to 375F. Grease cookie sheets. In large bowl, beat sugar, brown sugar and butter until light and fluffy. Add vanilla and egg; blend well. stir in flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt; mix well. Stir in rolled oats, raisins and nuts. Drop dough by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto cookie sheets.

Bake at 375F for 7 to 10 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheets.

For 30 years, the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center has been helping individuals and families at risk because of domestic violence. What began as the compassionate mission of several volunteer parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Newburyport in 1982 has grown into a nationally-recognized nonprofit organization serving victims of domestic violence from Amesbury, Merrimac, Georgetown, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, West Newbury, and Groveland. The mission of the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is to empower community members to live free from fear, intimidation, violence or the threat of abuse by providing support, advocacy, and education. For more information, call 978-465-0999, visit [www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org](http://www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org) or call the 24-hour confidential crisis hotline at 978-388-1888.

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