

*Morsels of the Mind Book Group*

*Date: January 15, 2009*

*Book Title: Lottery*

*Hostess: Nancy Schellenberg*

*Food Served: Warm pastrami dip with cocktail rye, crudités and dip, gherkins, cranberry tart, assorted sodas and wine.*

*Also, Perry's Hershey Kisses, PayDay and Snickers bars!*

*Realia: Bingo set, lottery ticket, National Enquirer, and Reader's Digest.*

*Book Synopsis: Perry, the main character, is NOT retarded. His IQ is 76. Perry's challenges, lessons and philosophy of life are told through his relationships with friends and family. The fact that Perry wins the Washington state lottery causes his family, friends and strangers to interact with him in unusual ways.*

*Our telephone interview with Patricia Wood was so enlightening. We gained insights about her creative process and character development. Her life experiences had an impact upon the plot. Patricia certainly reacted to our questions about "killing off" one of our favorite characters. The autographed bookplates were a thoughtful gift.*

*Review: People generally liked the fact that the book was narrated by Perry. Keith and Gram were favorite characters. There was some question about whether Perry was a take-off of Forrest Gump, but others disagreed. The issue of mainstreaming prompted another discussion.*

*Highlights of Discussion: See phone interview above.*

*Attendance: Ginny, Laura, Anne H. and Anne S., Nancy M. and Nancy S.*

*Suggestions/Business: We chose books, dates and hosts for February through June 2009*