

Flowers Fashioned With Flair

Imagine a floral display of exotic peacock feathers and elegant flowers, or a flower creation that uses an Amish hat as its base? The Willow Valley Floral Group uses charming unexpected elements such as these to create exquisite flower displays that rival those of professional floral shops.

For the past four years, this creative Resident group has been making elegant creations that add ambience and beauty to the Lakes Community lobby. The group obtains flowers from a local wholesaler and then meets weekly to collect and redesign the lobby flower arrangements from the previous week. Arrangements are then either refurbished or new ones are created.

Different weekly themes are used for inspiration. "Hats" was one of the most challenging and unique themes the group has tackled. They used a variety of hats as the foundation of their floral arrangements. Another challenging theme was

"Miniatures." Members created tiny detailed floral works of art. Much thought goes into the creation of each artistically designed arrangement. Several members have prior professional experience.

Floral Group leader Ruth Dutcher began her career in flower design years ago when a good friend invited her to work in her flower shop. Since then she's worked in several shops and taken many workshops to enhance her floral skills. Her past experience includes working on floats for the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. She also designed floral arrangements for the wedding of a former Miss U.S.A.

Other talented members of the group, several of whom also had prior florist experience, include:

Yoka Molenaar,
Ruth Van Ormer,
Grace Martin,
Anne O'Delle,
Lee Babikow,
Peggy Harder,
Mary Lou Hare,
Betty Allen, and
Loretta Bastedo.

