

March 2016

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Meet for Breakfast: Monday, Mar. 14, 9:00 A.M.

Our monthly Meet for Breakfast is the second Monday of the month at Friendly's and we would love for you to join us. We order from the menu, and separate checks are provided. Please call the office if you need a ride or to reserve a place.

Senior Salon: Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2:00 P.M.

The Senior Salon on March 10 at Dillingham Place will focus on "Strategies for Making Life Easier." All are invited to share their discoveries, items, and gadgets that are making life easier. Bring a friend. Rides are available—just let us know you want to attend. Hope to see you there!

Movie: "STAR WARS" Wednesday, Mar. 16, 7:00 P.M.

This benefit for Neighborhood Falmouth will be held at Falmouth Cinema Pub, with a suggested donation of \$10 at the door. Reservations requested but not required.

NF Book Club: Wednesday, Mar. 16, 2:00 P.M.

Our next book is *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin. We meet in the Trustees Room at the Main Library. Newcomers always welcome!

Meet for Lunch: Tuesday, Mar. 29, 11:45 A.M.

We are moving the monthly lunch to the last Tuesday of the month. In March, join us at Liam Maguire's Irish Pub. Parking is on Main Street or across the street. All are welcome. We order from the menu, and separate checks are provided. Please call the office if you need a ride or to reserve a place.

IN APRIL...

Paper Shredding: Saturday, Apr. 9, 10 A.M.–1 P.M.

Pass the word! Documents shredded for \$5/box, with NF Members' and Volunteers' shredding done free. Held in the Lawrence School Parking Lot, Lakeview Avenue. All proceeds benefit NF.



Paulette Loomis playing her cello.

A Profile of NF Member Paulette Loomis

By Carol Chittenden

Paulette Chapman Loomis's memories begin with a happy childhood in Lexington, Massachusetts, where her father was the minister at a beautiful white church with a tall steeple. Its belfry featured not only fascinating bells but also a view of what seemed like the whole world. When it snowed, Paulette loved the cold crisp air of a sleigh ride around the common in the sleigh driven by her father and pulled by a steady old horse named Jerry.

What is now recognized as dyslexia held Paulette back in school, but her love of art and design shone through, and led to college at the Rhode Island School of Design, studying landscape design. Not long afterward she married David Loomis, a freshly minted Unitarian minister, and they had a son and two daughters. When the children were small, Paulette took classes at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, studying gold- and silversmithing, and then at the Tufts School of Library Science. That certified her to work as an art and reference librarian, first in Melrose, and later in Rockport, where she was active in the Cape Anne arts community, as well as lending her landscape design skills to the Melrose Conservation Commission.

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In 1980, the Loomises moved to Falmouth, where Paulette made one of the most important connections of her life: Monica Dickens, the granddaughter of Charles Dickens. Monica, who lived in North Falmouth, was wise and gracious as she welcomed and trained Paulette as a volunteer for the Samaritans. Paulette could empathize with desperate people: her daughter, Vivian, had committed suicide at age 14. Monica helped Paulette see that one has neither control over nor responsibility for all the world's sadness; at the same time, sympathetic listening and kindness can often make a vital difference.

A family cabin, "The Little Brown Jug," on the Maine coast was a summer refuge for 23 years, and is now entrusted to the next generation of Loomises. It afforded a restful view of windjammers, Pumpkin Island Lighthouse, the blue and purple Camden hills, and all the fresh air one could breathe. Again and again Paulette painted watercolors of that shifting seascape. She also painted on numerous trips abroad. In fact, her illustrated travelogues from Italy are now archived at the Schlesinger Museum at Radcliffe.

Paulette's landscapes reflected not only her professional training but also her love of gardening. In the winter, she raised orchids indoors, participated in the Orchid Society, and made miniature paintings of the orchids, now in many private collections. In the summer, her home on Place Road bloomed every year with flowers and foliage in beds, naturalized into the surrounding wooded areas, and in containers on the several decks. Now that macular degeneration has robbed her of most eyesight, she can still see color, keeps a thriving raised bed in summer, and paints bouquets in the colder seasons.

In Falmouth, after a short stint at the Falmouth Artists Guild, she became the director of the Market Barn Gallery on Depot Avenue. That led to her involvement with the Falmouth Cultural Council, which she chaired for six years, and this led in turn to chairing the Committee to Encourage Public Art. The committee's main project was the series of eleven bronze plaques depicting a timeline of economic activity in Falmouth. The plaques are presently embedded in the lawn along Falmouth Public Library's Main Street sidewalk. In that location, this beautiful work by artist Sarah Peters is too easily overlooked, and Paulette hopes the plaques may eventually be moved to a wall at eye level.

In 1947, a Dutch architect, Henk Breebart, expressed an interest in learning more about the canals in the Providence area, and by chance the mayor's office passed the request along to Paulette. She and Henk became pen pals, and over time

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MARCH CULTURE CLUB

Falmouth has so much to do, and we'd love to get you a ride to these or other activities if you are interested. Please call the office to learn more.

Lecture: Encounters with New England's Most Imperiled Wildlife—Turtles!

Thursday, March 3rd, at 7:00 P.M. in the Falmouth Historical Society's Cultural Center

The number of sea turtles that get stranded and cold-stunned in Cape Cod Bay has increased in recent years. Bob Prescott, Director of Wellfleet Audubon, will discuss his organization's role in gathering, caring for, and releasing these turtles.

Falmouth Forum Lecture: "How To Build a Heart: Lessons From Man and Nature"

Friday, March 4, 7:30–9:00 P.M. at MBL Lillie Auditorium, Woods Hole. The lecture features Duke Cameron, MD, Professor and Chief of Cardiac Surgery, The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Lectures are free and open to the public.

Falmouth Chorale Concert: "A Choral Fantasia," Saturday, March 19th, at 4:00 P.M. and Sunday, March 20th at 3:00 P.M.

Held at Falmouth Academy, this is a concert to carry you into springtime, featuring Bach's Magnificat, Mozart's Regina Coela, and Beethoven's Choral Fantasy. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Buy online at www.falmouthchorale.org or from any member of the Chorale. For information, call 744-392-2383.

Concert: "A Cappella Fest"

Friday, March 4, at 7:00 P.M. at the Cape Cod Church, Route 151. It's a fun night of spectacular vocal music at the 3rd annual A Cappella Fest presented by the Falmouth HS Choral Boosters. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door.

Welcome new Members:

Pat and Stewart Gordon
Kay Johnson

Welcome new Volunteers:

Michelle Austin
Malcolm Fraser
Mary Pat MacKenzie
Dorothy Shiebler
Vicki Willard

We're glad you have joined us!

Paulette Loomis – continued from page 2

visits, including children, were exchanged. In the mid-1990's, when both Paulette and Henk were widowed, the pen-pal relationship expanded into travel companionship, taking them along the Rhine and around New England. Eventually, they alternated into a pattern, spending three months in Falmouth, followed by three months in Holland, until his death in 2013. Paulette even tackled, but never quite mastered, the Dutch language. However, the travel and the relationship were broadening, and gave her the deep satisfaction of mutual understanding with another person.

In 2012, Paulette steeled herself against another cruel blow: her son David, a professional piano tuner, was diagnosed with a neuroblastoma, which ground to its painful conclusion in 2013, leaving a wife and two grown children. As difficult as that was, on top of losing her eyesight, she persevered as a family peacemaker in both Holland and the U.S. Practicing her routine of finding at least three joys a day, she continued her love of music and art, and discovered a new pleasure, recorded books. Dyslexia had always forced her to skim for plot highlights, but now she says listening to literature reveals the deeper layers of character, structure, and language.

Christmas 2015 brought a fresh delight: her grandson Forrest, also a musician, organized the entire family to locate and purchase a beautiful cello for Paulette! It arrived in a stylish blue case, but more important, it has a lovely tone, "the best I've ever played, except for a short period babysitting a Strad," she says. Forrest brings his bass from central Massachusetts to her sunny apartment, and they are working out ways to harmonize without being able to read sheet music. In the meantime, Paulette practices a few minutes daily to toughen her fingers and find those mellow notes once again.

We gratefully acknowledge support from:

Bank of Cape Cod · Beatrice A. Bunker Architecture · Cape and Islands United Way · Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank · Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation Trust · Celebrations · Falmouth Podiatry/Dr. Richard Armstrong · Falmouth Fund of Cape Cod Foundation · Janney Montgomery Scott · Michael Leahy, MD · Dr. James W. O'Connor · Rapoza Landscape · Dr. Gerald Roan · Royal Megansett · Simply Hearing · Upper Cape Ear Nose and Throat · Waterbury Optometry · Windfall Market & Windfall Florals · Dr. William Wittmann · Wood Lumber Company · Woods Hole Foundation

SAVE THE DATE

May 13, The Annual NF Fundraiser An Evening of Art, Music, and Friendship

We are delighted to hold our annual party at the Falmouth Artists Guild. Enjoy delicious food, music, and good company surrounded by local art. Tickets are \$75.

June 30, 7:00 P.M. "Don't Get Caught Empty Handed: Caring for Your Aging Parents"

A conversation with Janet Benvenuti, author and family and aging advocate, on how to address the legal, financial, medical, and caregiving challenges of aging, even when families live at a distance. To be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Sandwich Road. Free and open to the public.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our annual Winter Gathering in February. Despite the cold outside, it was warm and convivial inside.

Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with cooking, baking, setting up, cleaning up, bringing members, and everything else you did. Special thanks to NF Volunteer Davien Gould who chaired the event. Thank you, Davien!

Members, your contributions of baked goods helped the meal end on an especially sweet note. Thank you again!



Photos Clockwise:

Bruce Haslun, Carol

Haslun, Lucy Lester, Davien Gould, Matthew Gould; Janet Folger, Rosemary Simons, Carin Galbraith; Shirley Dunkle, Barbara Hampson, Kay Johnson

Don't Forget!

**STAR WARS
the 1977 Movie**
at the Falmouth Cinema Pub,
March 16, 7:00 P.M.
\$10 donation

**See the original on the big screen.
Bring your kids and grandkids!**

**Reservations requested by March 11 to Susan
in the NF office 508-564-7543.**

**Paper Shredding Event and
Cookie Sale!**

**Shred Those Private Documents
and Support Neighborhood Falmouth**

**Saturday, April 9
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 P.M.
Lawrence School Parking Lot**

**Members and Volunteers free,
all others pay \$5 per box**

**NF thanks Sound Financial Advisors at Janney
Montgomery Scott for donating shredder services.
Call the office for more details.**



Volunteers and Members

We hope the Winter Gathering Lunch didn't use up all your energy for baking! As part of our Annual Paper Shredding Fundraiser on Saturday, April 9, we will be holding a bake sale. We'd be grateful for any contributions of cookies, bars, or brownies. Please let Susan in the NF Office know by Friday, April 1, if you can help. We can pick up or you can deliver. Reach Susan at director@neighborhoodfalmouth.org, or 508-564-7543.

Thank you!!



“Cookin’ Cozy”
By Bruce Ivar Haslun

This is a recipe I'm proud of. I think it may be the first one I ever made up. I've refined it a bit over the years, but it always seems to get rave reviews from guests. It's simple, but still seems a bit elegant. I'm giving you the whole recipe, which feeds 4 to 6. Using 1 large chicken breast and halving all the other ingredients listed below will get you 2 generous servings.

Haslun's Chicken Divan (serves 4-6)

2 heads broccoli
1 tbs lemon juice
3 skinless boneless chicken breasts, cooked
2 cans cream of chicken soup, undiluted
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 cup sour cream
½ cup dry herbed or plain bread crumbs
1 tbs melted butter

Cut the broccoli into spears and steam them for 7 to 8 minutes. Arrange them in a greased baking dish “head-to-toe” fashion. Slice the chicken and lay the slices on top of the broccoli. Mix the soup, sour cream, and lemon juice. Pour onto chicken and spread evenly with a spatula. Sprinkle on the cheese. Mix bread crumbs and melted butter and sprinkle on top of the cheese. Bake 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes.

My suggestion would be a simple long grain and wild rice mix (package) prepared with chicken broth (instead of water) as an accompaniment.

Skoal, y'all!
Bruce