
NEIGHBORHOOD

FALMOUTH
Meeting Seniors' Needs

Newsletter

December 2016

Phone: 508-564-7543
PO Box 435, Falmouth, MA 02541
www.neighborhoodfalmouth.org

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DATES TO REMEMBER

NF Book Club: Tuesday, December 6, 2:00 P.M. Join us at the Falmouth Public Library as we discuss *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld. Our January book is *The Perfect Horse* by Elizabeth Letts, and the likely date is Tuesday, January 10. Newcomers always welcome, and rides are available.

Senior Salon: Wednesday, December 14, 2:00–3:15 P.M. Handbell Concert.

Come join us to listen to the Village Green Handbells and join in singing Christmas Carols and other winter favorites. We will also learn a bit of the historical roots of the hand bell and discover some interesting tidbits about the steeple chimes in our town. Refreshments provided. All are welcome and rides are available—just let us know you want to attend.



Meet for Lunch: Wednesday, December 21, 11:45 A.M.

Let's enjoy the food and decorations at the Coonamessett Inn. All are welcome, the more the merrier. We order from the menu, and separate checks are provided. Please call the office if you need a ride or to reserve a place.

Welcome new Members:

Betty McCarty
Carol McKeon

Welcome new Volunteers:

Sally Clymer
Liz Irvin
Grace Leva
Sharon Reif



A Profile of NF Volunteer Tony Colacchio

By Tom Sbarra

Accidental success? Coming out of the navy at age 22 with no college education, just experience as a radar technician, Tony Colacchio applied for a job with the FAA but was told it would be a year before there was an opening. So he walked down the street and in the door of a local greeting card company, cold calling them for a job on the very day that, by extraordinary coincidence, they were desperate to find a successor for their long-time transportation manager who was eager to retire. Tony had no applicable skills for this type of work but convinced them he was willing and able. The transportation manager mentored him for nine months, and then retired, leaving Tony in charge. He was on his way! He parlayed that experience into a career, working for a series of ever-larger companies while attending Northeastern University at night to increase his skills. He never did go back to the FAA. At one of his stops, working for Marshall's Department Stores, he met a young administrative assistant who grew up in Rockland, MA. He and Mary married, and they have three children.

We are delighted that you have joined us!

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Tony Colacchio—continued from page 1

When, at 33, an employer refused to allow him an opportunity to learn a new job, he quit and went out on his own. It took three years before he could make a living with his start-up distribution and transportation company, while his wife supported them and managed their growing family. Tony applied his considerable energy, a remarkable ability to remember names and dates, and a philosophy that in business you need to tailor your product to customer needs to persistently expanding the company over 20 years. In 2000, he proudly turned the business over to his older son, Jason. Recently, his youngest child, Alex, still in his twenties has joined the firm. To Tony, it almost feels like this is the third generation in the business. The Colacchios' middle child, a daughter, Tina, works as an occupational therapist in Pennsylvania, where she resides with her own family.

Having retired at age 55 and with plenty of energy, Tony and Mary moved to the Cape from Marblehead and built a house in the North Falmouth Ballymeade area (the Cape was as far south as Mary was willing to go for their primary residence). Tony joined the Cape Cod Curling Club and became president just as the club was working on a major renovation project for its building on Highfield Drive. Almost without knowing why, Tony found himself urging them to broaden the minimal handicap access required by the state and town into a full-blown expansion that would facilitate the nascent sport of wheelchair curling. He and his wife spent three years organizing charity golf tournaments to raise over \$19,000 to fund construction of a ramp that would allow the curlers to wheel directly onto the ice. Five wheelchair curlers joined the club, and the program was off and running—or rolling as it were.

Tony is justifiably proud of the amazingly successful curlers this program has produced, having athletes participating in national and international competitions and a couple of them achieving elite/high-performance status as Paralympians in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Currently, two more are vying to represent the United States in the upcoming World Wheelchair Curling Championship Games that will be held in South Korea in March of 2017.

Asked how he grew so passionate about wheelchair curling, he takes several moments to form an answer that provides insight into what makes him tick. He recounts the story of his cousin who was severely disabled. At family gatherings, the other cousins would be outside playing, spending little time with their housebound relative. When they would come inside for a snack or lunch, the disabled boy,

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A MEMORABLE ANNUAL FALL GATHERING LUNCHEON

Thanks to everyone who came to the NF Annual Fall Gathering Luncheon. What a happy time we had! About 70 members and volunteers gathered for good conversation and a feast of chicken, ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, and delicious breads—not to mention plates of homemade cookies from all corners of our NF community. Boy, can this group bake! YUM!

Special thanks to Davien Gould and Peggy Ledwell for pulling it all together, and to Atria and Royal Megansett for their terrific food contributions. To all the volunteers and members who cooked, baked, drove members, greeted, and helped to set up and clean up, heartfelt thanks.

Enjoy these photos from the luncheon:



Photos above L-R:
Martha Tarafa, Anne Pomper, Janet Simons Folger, Jacob Rietsema

Left: Martha Evans, Millie Lisk

Below: Elin Sorlie, Irene Dalo



DECEMBER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

If you are interested in these or other activities, we'd love to get you a ride and perhaps even someone to join you. Please call the office to learn more.

Holidays at Highfield, Friday, November 25 to Sunday, December 4. Top decorators and designers showcase their talents in the elegant rooms at Highfield. The event features a gift gallery with fine crafts, hostess gifts, an international crèche collection, a tea shoppe, a huge model train display, seasonal music, special exhibitions, and Santa. Tickets are \$5, children are free.

Lecture: Falmouth Forum Presents: *Together You Can Do Anything!* Friday, December 2, 7:30 P.M., Lillie Auditorium, Woods Hole. Dick Hoyt, retired Lt. Colonel is one-half of the inspiring "Team Hoyt," a father-son duo who have advocated for people living with disabilities through their participation in over 1,100 race events. Free and open to the public.

Falmouth Chorale Concerts: Saturday, December 10, 4:00 P.M. and 7:30 P.M., Sunday, December 11, 3:00 P.M. First Congregational Church 'Tis The Seasons. With Christmas music at its heart, the concert embraces music from other seasonal holidays and traditions from Thanksgiving into the New Year and features the Cape Cod Children's Chorus. Neighborhood Falmouth members can receive discount tickets for \$15 (regular price is \$25 or \$30 at the door) by sending a check directly to Bobbie Miner, 34 Loop Road, Falmouth. Checks must be received by Monday, December 5th.

Thank You!

Atria Senior Living • Beatrice A. Bunker Architecture • Cape Cod Cooperative Bank • Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank • Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Charitable Foundation Trust • Chapman Cole & Gleason • Bristol County Savings Bank • Celebrations • Elder Life Care Network • Pat Dillon, Ermine Lovell Real Estate • Dr. Richard Armstrong, Falmouth Podiatry • Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation • Foley & Foley, PC • Gardens by Barbara Conolly • Hamilton Tree and Landscape • Heritage at Falmouth • Janney Montgomery Scott • Jorge Muxica, Kalospix • Carol Kenney, Esq. • Michael Leahy, MD • Dr. James W. O'Connor • Paint's On Us • Dr. Gerald Roan • Royal Nursing Megansett • Simply Hearing • Upper Cape Ear Nose and Throat • Waterbury Optometry • Windfall Market & Windfall Florals • Dr. William Wittmann • Wood Lumber Company • Woods Hole Foundation

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who could not speak, would smile when he saw them. It was only years later that it clicked for Tony that this child wanted only their time and attention. Half a century later, Tony cannot recall this experience without becoming choked up. "All he wanted was some company. I felt we never gave him much of our time. Writing a check to a charity is important and may help it serve its mission, but giving time is precious and irreplaceable."

Tony continues to give his time to his community in several ways. He supports the wheelchair curlers and is director of the Paralympics Sports Club of Southeastern Mass. He travels with the athletes to curling events, helping them negotiate the still significant barriers to those who cannot walk. Seeing the struggles his disabled friends have getting off and on airplanes and into hotels makes him acutely aware of how far we still have to go to improve access for all.

His service includes volunteering for NF. On occasion, members find themselves caught in what turns out to be lengthy appointment times, waiting in the ophthalmology office and similar circumstances. But Tony finds joy in giving them as much time as is needed without regard to watching the clock, and he lets them know he gets more out of the experience of helping than whatever amount of time it takes—a sentiment shared by many of us. Tony loved golf, sailing, and curling, but these activities have taken a toll on him, and he has suffered problems with his back. Characteristically, he sees these losses of mobility as an opportunity to use his time in helping others who are more in need.

In his spare time, he manages databases and communications for two organizations: the alumni programs of his Nashua, NH, high school graduation class and the membership of the US Navy shipmates serving aboard the USS *Donner*. He is past president of the Samaritans of Cape Cod and the Islands.

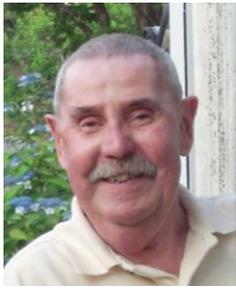
Accidental success? I think not. The old-fashioned combination of personality and hard work have gotten him far. Deep consideration for his fellow man has brought him to us! Neighborhood Falmouth is more than fortunate to have Tony caring for its members.



Your year-end contribution can make a huge difference to NF's meaningful work with members.

Please make your most generous gift today. Thank you!





“Cookin’ Cozy” By Bruce Ivar Haslun

It’s always a delight to celebrate the December holidays with friends by spending a cold evening with warm hors d’oeuvres, a good wine, and an

ounce or six of Kentucky’s pride to share our pleasure in the season.

Some bring their customs and ways of celebrations with them. On Hafslund Fjord, where Joseph and Ingeborg Haslun lived in Norway, their daughter filled old shoes with hay for Santa Klaus’ reindeer. When they came to The Promised Land (North Bronx) they saw no reason to treat the reindeer differently. After all, those deer were neighbor immigrants from Finland! Hay was still easy to find. Pappa allowed his tallest boots to be shined by one of the three new sons, and the six new daughters decided on Mamma’s prettiest shoes. Everyone joined in stuffing in the dry grass, but the youngest of that year (1903 for my Dad, second to last child) placed the finished gift next to the fireplace—or steam radiator, depending on the abode and the era.

And so too with Carol and me. We’ve been to our wonderful old white-spired church on the village green. We’ve sung the carols, heard the ancient story repeated. At home, we’ve opened our gifts to one another, made the mandatory ritual telephone, Skype, Facetime, Morse, semaphore, CB (have I missed anything?) calls to everyone. We have had a lavish poultry dinner, cleaned up our dishes, had a lovely but blustery walk on our Old Stone Dock Surf Drive beach and not thought of, much less watched, a single sporting event.

This has been our Christmas custom, our ritual since we have been “we,” 28 years. I get the formula together and bring it to proper heat on the stove, and pour it into a wonderful old pitcher that keeps things hot for hours. Carol gets our Santa mugs from the 1950’s (y’all remember those, right?) and off we go to the most comfortable room in the house, currently our upstairs library. We sit across from one another, raise our mugs, and declare, “Merry Christmas, my love! To our next year together!” And so,

White Hot “Christmas-I-Love-You” Chocolate (makes 2, but double it)

- 2 oz. (squares) white chocolate, chopped
- ½ cup boiling water
- 1 tsp orange zest
- 1 TBL Grand Marnier (orange liqueur)
- ½ tsp vanilla

- 1 ½ cups milk (preferably whole)
- 1 egg

Melt chocolate over low heat in saucepan, stirring. Add water and whisk to blend. Whisk in next 4 ingredients. Whisk and heat 5 minutes. In a bowl, whisk ¼ cup of chocolate mixture with egg. Add the egg mix to the pot and blend and heat about 10 minutes.

Comments: This is a recipe for 2. Never make less than double! It’s that good. You can easily make ahead and reheat, so it’s terrific after midnight church services. Plan to have with some sweet cookies. The homemade ones you planned to leave for Santa will work, or those “pirouette” stick cookies from the grocery store are swell.

Skoal, and a sincere, heartfelt, Merry Christmas to y’all!

Help with Your TV Remote Control

NF Board Member and Volunteer Ken Peal has obtained this remote control from Comcast for people who have difficulty either seeing the small buttons on their normal remote or making their fingers touch the right button. This one can be used anywhere in Falmouth and we will install it for you. They are free and we can get lots more from Comcast so call Susan in the office if you would like to try one.

