

## YOU ARE INVITED!

NF is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with a gala party in the handsome conference room of C.H. Newton Builders Inc. on West Falmouth Highway, April 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us in this lovely room, converted from an old blacksmith shop, with walls made of pink granite from a local quarry and a huge mahogany table that is a showpiece of craftsmanship. The gala is also a fund raising event, continuing the 2014 drive to build a solid financial base for the next five years. A silent auction will highlight items made of wood (the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary symbol), and includes a mammoth cross-section cut from a 200-year-old elm tree, suitable for making into a table, or just to admire. Music, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, birthday cake, wine and beer will add to the festivities. The price is \$100 per ticket. Please come yourself and ask your friends—it's a perfect way to support a good cause and enjoy a celebratory evening.

## NF ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held April 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 on the second floor of Highfield Hall. Members, volunteers and guests are encouraged to attend.

## PAPER SHREDDING AND COOKIE SALE

On Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 until 12:45, Falmouth residents may bring personal papers for shredding at the Lawrence School parking lot. No charge for NF members and NF volunteers, but the charge for others will be \$5 per box (roughly 12 x 12 x 16 inches or equivalent). The shredding will be done on site, confetti-like results. No binders, but paper clips and staples are OK. Enjoy also the homemade cookie sale. Proceeds benefit NF. Shredding equipment funded by Janney Montgomery Scott, Sound Financial Advisors, with many thanks from NF. Call the NF office for more information.



Bobye Anderson with a favorite East Dennis beach scene.

## Bobye Anderson Board of Directors and Volunteer *By Pamela Nelson*

"The good news about your time after retirement is that you can pick and choose what you want to do," says Neighborhood Falmouth board member and volunteer Bobye Anderson. "The bad news is that you must pick and choose," a dilemma she tackled when she stepped down from thirty years of teaching at Mullen Hall School. "Achieving balance is the tricky goal."

Bobye grew up in Cincinnati, the middle child of an engineer father and a mother who worked out of the home in accounting. Bobye fondly recalls music as a huge influence in their family's life. Her mother studied at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and the children fell asleep at night listening to her practice piano. The family sang in the car, their dad harmonizing and quizzing them about instruments playing on the radio. Bobye studied piano and grew up loving all types of music. For a number of years they lived on a farm outside the city, where the family kept horses, ducks, and chickens. Bobye remembers going horseback riding with her father after church. She loved looking after her little brother, eight years her

junior, and credits that relationship with sparking her decision to go into elementary education. When Bobye was a freshman in high school, the family moved back to town to be closer to more academically oriented schools. In high school she won a teaching scholarship and attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she earned her undergraduate degree in education.

From age six, Bobye and her family traveled in the summer to East Dennis on Cape Cod, where they eventually built a cottage. As a teenager, Bobye worked in East Dennis and later on Nantucket. The relationships she forged during her summer jobs on Nantucket profoundly affected her future. In fact, she met her first husband there. They began married life in Falmouth, where he later became a school administrator, and she was a long-time kindergarten and first grade teacher at Mullen Hall School.

At age 18, working as a waitress on Nantucket, Bobye befriended an elderly man. "The first person I really think of adoring as an older person was a man I waited on twice a day." She recalls his being alone and frail, and after he returned to Philadelphia, they kept up a correspondence until his death. Exchanging letters, she shared with him her ambivalence about marrying outside her religious faith, and he responded that he believed that it was the relationship that was important. For Bobye he was a grandparent figure, the first of many elderly people she was to befriend.

After teaching in Falmouth for one year, Bobye and her husband applied to the Department of the Interior for teaching positions abroad. They were assigned to teach for two years in the Trust Territory of the Pacific, and were sent to the Marshall Islands. They lived on the crowded island of Ebeye, where Bobye taught English as a second language to children aged 5 to 12. After WWII, the U.S. had displaced the native populations from their home islands in the Kwajalein Atoll to the single island of Ebeye, and they lost a good part of their culture in the process. "It gave me an empathy for people living in extremely difficult conditions due to circumstances beyond their control," Bobye says. She also experienced the closeness that developed from teaching and living with the Marshallese people as individuals. The experience made a huge impression on Bobye. "If I were the benevolent dictator of the world, I would require all young people to travel to see the rest of the world." (Her son and daughter both took junior years abroad, in Australia and Ireland, and after graduat-

## HOME REPAIR ADVICE AVAILABLE

Advice is available for major home repairs, thanks to funds awarded to Neighborhood Falmouth by the Falmouth Foundation. If you could use professional advice on, say, roof issues, an addition, or other structural questions, please call the office.

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: April 7<sup>th</sup>

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at Friendly's for a cup of coffee and/or breakfast. It's a great way to begin the week!

### Fifth Anniversary Celebration: April 11<sup>th</sup>

NF 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Fund Raiser will be on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 8 p.m. at C.H. Newton Builders in West Falmouth.

### Culture Club Opportunity: April 13<sup>th</sup>

Come to Highfield Hall to hear *Chopin and his Friends Recital with Robert Wyatt* on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 6 p.m. Please call the office if you need a ride.

### Meet for Lunch: April 23<sup>rd</sup>

On Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:45 a.m., we will meet at British Beer Company, Falmouth Heights for lunch. All members, volunteers, and guests are welcome. You may order from the menu and individual checks will be provided. Please call the office to reserve a place.

### FHS Cleanup Morning for Members: May 10<sup>th</sup>

Save the date. More details in next newsletter.

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ing from college, her daughter taught English in Japan for two years.)

Bobye and her husband returned to the Falmouth school system. He worked summers as a ranger at the Cape Cod National Seashore, and they were given living accommodations in Eastham and Wellfleet, never far from the beach. They lived simply, and their children became readers there, frequenting the library in Wellfleet. The kids also enjoyed visiting their grandparents in nearby East Dennis. It was a painful loss when

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Boby's mother, diagnosed with ovarian cancer, died at age 57.

Boby's first marriage ended after twenty-five years. During the subsequent five difficult years, she found comfort amongst her many girlfriends, ranging from friendships dating back to summers shared at the National Seashore to Mullen Hall colleagues, church connections, and other affiliations. "My female friendships are hugely important to me. My friends are sisters of my heart."

Boby met Gary Anderson, a Minnesota transplant working as a banker in Boston, through mutual friends in 1997. They grew especially close the following year, when Boby had a number of unexpected surgeries in Boston, including operations for breast cancer and for a benign lung tumor. Gary was there for every appointment, taking notes and supporting her. They married in 2000, and he retired the following year. Boby continued at Mullen Hall until 2002. That year she had open heart surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm, which included an aortic valve replacement. Yet Boby is completely serious and sincere when she says "I am healthy as a horse!"

In fact, she is enthusiastic about being active with their six grandchildren, practicing yoga and zumba, and kayaking in Waquoit Bay. After retiring, she worked for Wheelock College, teaching a course and supervising student teachers. At John Wesley Methodist Church, she leads a weekly women's devotion group, plays piano and leads hymns for a weekly nursing home ministry that serves five nursing homes, and is in charge of the monthly church program "Food for the Soul." In addition to doing publicity for Neighborhood Falmouth, she has been researching and writing about the problems of transportation for the elderly. Boby sees her engagement with older people as a way to honor her parents, who "had a big heart for helping others. I am busy in my retirement, but I choose everything that I do. I am doing what I do because I love it!"

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## MEMBERS: LIKE FISHING?

One of our new volunteers is an avid fisherman and he is offering to take anyone who also enjoys the sport along with him. He has all the fishing gear necessary so please just call the NF office if you are interested. Sounds like fun and a great way to get outdoors and meet a new friend.

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## NF/SENIOR DISCOUNTS

Eastman/Ace Hardware: 10% discount to members of NF on most full-priced items and available every day. You must present your NF membership card to receive the discount.

Falmouth Taxi Company: 25% discount to Falmouth Seniors. Be sure to ask for the discount if you use their service.

Green Shuttle: \$15 discount to members of Neighborhood Falmouth.

Mahoney's Garden Center: 10% Senior discount every Wednesday.

Windfall Market: 5% Senior discount every Wednesday.

Dunkin' Donuts: 10% Senior discount anytime—you have to request it.

We gratefully acknowledge recent support from the following merchants and organizations:

Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank  
Cape Cod Marathon  
Eastern Bank  
Falmouth Newcomer's Club  
Hamilton Tree & Landscape  
Janney Montgomery Scott  
Kaleidoscope Toys  
Lawrence Lynch Corporation  
Locust Street Sign Company  
Patriot Party Boats  
Uncle Bill's Country Store Florist  
Pies A La Mode Café  
Stop 'n Shop  
Waterbury & Olson Optometry  
Windfall Market