

December 2014

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THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has supported Neighborhood Falmouth in 2014. We thank NF members for their membership support, and NF volunteers for their cheerful and passionate dedication. We also thank those of you who have supported Neighborhood Falmouth with a charitable contribution.

Each of you has an important part in the success of Neighborhood Falmouth. As we enter 2015, we hope you will continue your participation and share the Neighborhood Falmouth story with prospective members, volunteers, and donors.

Thank you!

WE HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Don't forget that Neighborhood Falmouth keeps a list of vetted Service Vendors like plumbers, handymen, and yard maintenance workers. If you need to hire someone at your home, give us a call. We may have a recommendation for you. Similarly, if you have worked with a service provider whose work has been excellent, let us know. We're always looking to keep our list up to date.

SMILE! WHEN YOU SHOP ONLINE

Did you know that you can support Neighborhood Falmouth when you shop online through Amazon? If you are an online shopper, simply [begin by going to Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com). The first time you will be asked to select which charitable organization to support. Type in Neighborhood Falmouth. Then when you shop, Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase price to our wonderful organization. It's an easy way to make your shopping go even farther. Just remember to start each shopping trip by connecting to Smile.Amazon.com!



Chris Polloni in his lean-to greenhouse.

A Profile of NF Volunteer Chris Polloni *By Pamela Nelson*

There was a time—in the second half of the twentieth century—when the world of academia took itself a little less seriously, when advanced degrees were appreciated but not required, when imagination, resourcefulness, native intelligence, dynamism, and ingenuity were respected as marketable assets. During this time, Chris Polloni was invited to work at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) where he began “a golden career,” one that stirred his creative juices and led to an even longer period of employment at the United States Geological Survey (USGS.)

Chris, born 10 years after his three siblings, grew up in Sandwich, the son of immigrants. His mother was Swedish, his father an Italian who was first employed in this country in a quarry in Pigeon Cove. His parents met in Gloucester after his father had joined the Coast Guard. In 1938, the year of the Great Hurricane, his father was transferred to the Coast Guard Lifeboat Station in Sandwich, where he served throughout WWII. Unlike parents who relax their rules for their younger offspring, his father remained strict, and teenaged Chris was not



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
ONE AND ALL!**

permitted to have a boat or a car. A self-described sports nut, he excelled in soccer, basketball, and baseball. Chris also enjoyed working in life-long friend John Burke's family's shop on Route 6A. Burke's father was a successful carpenter, and John Burke later became a Woods Hole scientist as well as a carpenter.

During high school, Chris got a real job at Weaver's Garage, where he learned to work on cars and trained to be a mechanic. There, he also bought his first car, which helped him build his notoriety as a crazy kid who loved car racing. Although he never got caught driving 100 mph on Route 130, he did get stopped in Sandwich for going 30 mph in a 25 mph zone. The police chief took away his license, vowing not to return it until Chris learned how "not to drive crazy."

He may have been wild, but Chris also studied hard in high school, even taking some college courses. After graduation, he entered the New Bedford Institute of Technology, but it was not a good fit for him, and he dropped out.

For a time, he worked as day manager at a garage in Hyannis, until he realized that working as a car mechanic was not the life he wanted to lead. By then, he owned a VW Beetle, which he drove to Georgia to visit his sister, where his brother-in-law, a career Air Force pilot, suggested that Chris join the military, convincing him to join the Air Force rather than the Army. Chris joined up, was sent to Texas and from there to Denver to electronics school. He spent the next three years, during the Vietnam era, working in Germany on F-105 Thunderchief fighter-bombers. He traveled to North Africa on temporary duty assignments and made two trips to Sweden to visit his mother's family.

It was toward the end of his military service that Chris received a letter from his old Sandwich friend, John Burke, stating that WHOI was looking for a floating electronics technician. When his Air Force stint was over, Chris started work at WHOI the very next month, in January 1968. He found the opportunity to travel appealing, because techs shipped out on research voyages. After one year, he joined WHOI's computer department, where he enthusiastically took part in numerous studies, profiling the chemical variations in seawater, helping determine the exact location where samples were taken, and supporting the development of satellite navigation. Perhaps one of the most satisfying moments during his 10 years at WHOI came when he helped locate the famed *Alvin* after it sank in 1968.

While at WHOI, Chris met and married marine biologist Pam Tannebring. They waited 10 years before having sons Jonathan and Benjamin. Pam stayed at WHOI while Chris accepted jobs in
(continued on the next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER



Falmouth Holiday Parade: December 7th

NF invites members, volunteers, and friends to join us in celebrating Neighborhood Falmouth in the December 7th Holiday Parade. Please call the office if you can join us. The more, the merrier!

Meet for Breakfast: December 8th

Our monthly Meet for Breakfast is now the second Monday of the month, this month on Dec 8th at Betsy's Diner (across from Peking Palace) at 9:00 a.m. All members, volunteers, and guests 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. We'd love to see you!

NF Book Club: December 9th

Our next book will be *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline. Get your request into the library now! We'll be meeting on Tuesday, December 9th, at 2:30 p.m. Call the office for directions—newcomers are welcome!

Meet for Lunch: December 17th

Enjoy lunch and holiday decorations with your NF friends at the Coonamessett Inn on Wednesday, December 17, at 11:45 a.m. All members, volunteers, and guests 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Annual Neighborhood Falmouth Soup and Bread Lunch will be Saturday, January 24th, in the Fellowship Hall at First Congregational Church on the Green. Lunch is free and open to all NF members, volunteers, and guests.

DECEMBER CULTURE CLUB

Enjoy the cultural life of Falmouth with help from NF! Many of our volunteers are already planning to go to these and other activities around town. If you'd like to go too, we'd love to get you a ride and give you a friendly person to sit with. Please call the office to learn more.

Saturday, December 6, 2:00 p.m.

Author Susan Branch

Acclaimed Martha's Vineyard author Susan Branch will talk about her newest book *A Fine Romance—Falling in Love with the English Countryside*, and answer questions about her travels, artwork, and writings. The program is offered by the Falmouth Public Library and will be held at the Morse Pond School Auditorium, 323 Jones Road.

December 13, 4:00 & 7:30 p.m.

December 14, 3:00 p.m.

Falmouth Chorale— A Christmas Homecoming

"A Christmas Homecoming" will feature American works including a world premiere by our very own John Yankee. Come ignite your holiday spirit by choosing one of the three performances! These concerts sell out quickly, so if you want a ticket at the NF Member discount price of \$15.00, contact Susan at the NF office before December 8th (no discount after that date). The tickets must be paid for ahead of time and they will be sent to you in the mail. There will be no "will call" for tickets at the door. Again, please call the NF office to buy a discounted ticket.

Sunday, December 14, 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Green Harvest Organic Farmers' Market & Artisans' Fair at Cape Cod Fairgrounds

Use the "Main Entrance" lot at the Cape Cod Fairgrounds. Market will move to the Artisans & Crafters building if the weather changes. Rain or Shine!

Friday, December 5 through

Sunday, December 14, Weekends Only

The Falmouth Theatre Guild presents "Striking Out: A Christmas Play in 6 Innings" at Highfield Theater December 5 to 14, Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 4 p.m.

A mostly all-kid cast learns some lessons about sportsmanship, friendship, and fun. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$12 for children under 18, and \$14 for seniors 62 and over. Purchase tickets at the door or online at falmouththeatreguild.org.

Friday, December 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Messiah Community Sing

Join the Falmouth Chorale, the Falmouth Chamber Players Orchestra—and your family, friends and neighbors—to sing or play at this traditional holiday event. A \$10 donation is suggested. Singers may bring their own score or borrow one at the door. Instrumentalists must contact FCPO President Fritz Sonnichsen in advance at fcpo@FalmouthChamberPlayers.org, or call 508-274-2632. Additional information is available at 774-392-2383 or info@falmouthchorale.org.

Chris Polloni continued

Rhode Island, North Falmouth, and Boston. Eventually, he returned to Woods Hole to work at USGS as a data processing manager and then as team leader for seafloor mapping. He remained at USGS for 28 years, retiring just two years ago.

"I did outreach my last 10 years at USGS," he says. One fascinating aspect of that USGS outreach was a program linking scientists from USGS with a two-day-per-week summer day camp for kids in Mashpee. He says, "We worked with the [Wampanoag] tribe, bringing science to their children but also working with the elders. I would match a scientist with an elder to talk about climate change or glaciers or water quality or plants. It included lunch, and they tried to prepare traditional lunches. They brought in vegetables, and one time we cooked a striped bass on a spit. The purpose was to get the kids exposed to their traditions but to talk about science as well. So, for instance, a glaciologist was matched up with one of the elders who related the myths referring to glaciers. We made a movie the first year we did it. I had a ball with this project!" (You can view the movie at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqqsZOB_a_A)

Chris Polloni exudes enthusiasm, and his interests are wide-ranging. He has served as president of the Marine Technology Society and is a member of the Falmouth Mostly All Male Chorus. He also now sings with the Unitarian Church Choir and is on the board of the local Sierra Club branch, focusing on water quality issues. He is a member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee—and he also empties trash for a Neighborhood Falmouth member in Waquoit. Chris credits Jackie Webster with recruiting him as a Neighborhood Falmouth volunteer. Kudos to Jackie for snagging him—she is obviously familiar with the adage "If you need something done, ask a busy person"! And many thanks to Chris, who says he is tickled to be a member of the NF volunteer team.

Items of Note:

Here are a few extra items of note we thought you might be interested in.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS

Monthly at the Falmouth Senior Center

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:

Obtain answers to your most pressing legal questions from these legal professionals

Patricia Mello's Office:

Wills, Health Care Choices, Nursing Home/ Medicaid Planning, Estate Planning, Asset Protection, Guardianships

Thomas Kosman:

Housing Problems, Government Benefits, Health Law, Guardianship, Reverse Mortgage, Consumer Issues

Michael Lavender:

General Legal Problems, Trusts, Wills, Estate Planning & Settlement

Carol Kenney:

Probate, Trusts, Estate Planning, Wills, Guardianship, Health Care Proxy, Real Estate matters

To sign up, call the Falmouth Senior Center at 508-540-0196.

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Monthly, First and Third Tuesdays

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Do you know someone who is currently caring for an elderly, ill, or disabled family member? Do you think they might like to meet with other caregivers to share experiences and discuss ideas for making this very important job a bit easier? A Caregivers Support Group meets at the Falmouth Senior Center on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Caregivers are invited to join by registering with the facilitator, Lee Burwell, a family therapist from Falmouth Human Services: 508-548-0533, ext. 15. This is an ongoing drop-in group, and caregivers are welcome to come whenever they can.

FALMOUTH EATS TOGETHER

Come one, come all. Become part of this Falmouth-wide community get-together. Share a delicious free meal with your neighbors on Thursday, December 4th, from 4–6 p.m. John Wesley United Methodist Church. Call the NF Office if you would like a ride and/or companion to sit with.

NEIGHBORHOOD FALMOUTH 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.

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Lawrence Lynch Corporation
Locust Street Sign Company
Mahoney's Garden Center
Recovery Without Walls
Stop & Shop Companies, Inc.
Waterbury Optometry
Windfall Market & Windfall Florals
Wood Lumber Company
Woods Hole Foundation

Neighborhood Falmouth Needs your Support

As the end of the year approaches, we respectfully ask you to remember Neighborhood Falmouth in your year-end giving plans. Membership fees cover only about half of the cost it takes to run this wonderful organization. Your support with a year-end gift, or through a planned gift like a bequest in your will, gives Neighborhood Falmouth the financial stability to continue to serve Falmouth Seniors in the months and years ahead.

Thank you!