

December 2013

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BEST WISHES

FOR A

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

FALMOUTH HOLIDAY PARADE

NF invites members, volunteers, and friends to join us in a walking unit to promote Neighborhood Falmouth in the December 8th Holiday Parade. Please call the office if you can join us!

JOY AROUND THE WORLD

REMINDER: The Falmouth Chorale is extending a very special offer for members of NF only. Tickets for their December Holiday Concert will be \$15 per person for NF members instead of \$25. The concerts will be Sat. Dec. 14th, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and Sun. Dec. 15th, 3:00 p.m., at First Congregational Church. The concert will celebrate music from diverse cultures, including Germany, England, Spain, Scandinavia, Latin America and Israel. Phil Lima (baritone) is the featured soloist.

Please call the NF office by Dec. 2nd to reserve your ticket. This is a firm deadline for the NF discounted price.



**Pat and Bob Dinsmore
Members and Volunteers**

By Pamela Nelson

Behind the Scenes with the Dinsmores

(Last month we introduced you to Pat and Bob Dinsmore, NF members and volunteers, and ended Part I of their profile with a cliffhanger. Their youngest child, born two months prematurely at Tobey Hospital, was on death's door when Bob stepped in to save the day. Part II begins with a brief science lesson.)

We are all somewhat familiar with the concept of blood typing, necessary for performing safe transfusions. Blood can be type A, B, AB, or O and is further defined as Rh negative or positive. Pat Dinsmore's blood is Rh negative, while Bob's is Rh positive. Four of their children were born healthy, but Heather, the youngest, was born two months prematurely. Furthermore, her blood was Rh positive and was affected by what is known as Rh incompatibility. In other words, Pat, with Rh negative blood, developed antibodies to the baby's Rh positive blood before this infant was even born. Those antibodies crossed the placenta and began to attack the baby's red blood cells. Nowadays, the

potential for this complication is recognized during prenatal care, and the mother is given RHoGHAM, consisting of special immune globulins, during the second trimester and also after delivery, to prevent antibodies from forming. But in 1959, treatment to prevent the condition from occurring had not been developed.

Bob was waiting in the wings at Tobey Hospital when the doctor, his face grim, came out to talk to him. The doctor said, "There's nothing I can do. The baby is going to die." Bob responded, "Isn't there *something* that can be done?" The doctor then suggested that Bob could try taking the newborn to the Children's Hospital in Boston, which he readily agreed to do. However, instead of putting the baby in an ambulance, the Tobey hospital staff put the incubator holding the baby in the back of Bob's car, and sent him off to Boston. Fortunately, a team had been alerted in Boston and was waiting on the curb for the baby, who was rushed indoors to receive a total of five blood transfusions that first day. After a long hospital stay, the premature newborn was finally released two months later, on her actual due date. Heather, that infant who made such a dramatic entry into the world, is now the mother of five grown kids and a community volunteer herself.

Bob and Pat's four other children, two daughters and two sons, include an elementary school teacher, a landscaper, a software engineer, and a recently retired editor for a Martha's Vineyard group making training films about dealing with emergencies and disasters. The couple also has thirteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, but assert that they, the matriarch and patriarch, "just stay around the edges."

Bob retired from the Coast Guard in 1971, became director of operations at WHOI, and retired again in 2001. He also served occasionally as captain of the research vessels *Atlantis II* and *Oceanus*. Since stepping down at WHOI, Bob has worked as a consultant for the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research. Currently, he is excited to be involved in the restoration of one of the original Nantucket lightships, a project underway in East Boston. This particular lightship was on station for forty years. Admitting that he now finds driving back and forth to Boston

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: December 2nd

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 2nd, at Friendly's for a cup of coffee and/or breakfast. It's a great way to begin the week!

NF Book Group: December 17th

We will be meeting at 2:30 on Tuesday, December 17th, to discuss *After This* by Alice McDermott. If you like to read or listen to books, please join us by calling the NF office for the location.

Meet for Lunch: December 18th

In response to several requests, we are trying various restaurants around town for Meet for Lunch. On Wednesday, December 18th, 11:45 a.m., we will meet at the Silver Lounge in North Falmouth. 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.

NF Board Meeting: December 19th

NF Board of Directors will be meeting at 2:00 on Thursday, December 19th, at Highfield Hall.

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Gathering for a delicious Soup and Bread luncheon will be held on Saturday, January 25th, in the Fellowship Hall at First Congregation Church on the Green. This lunch is free and open to all NF members, volunteers and guests. Entertainment will also be provided.

Dinsmores continued

on a regular basis tiresome, Bob participates nowadays more by writing grant proposals to support the project. (Anyone interested in Bob's brief, interesting history of the lightships might look up www.NantucketLightshipLV-112.org.)

Pat, who took up tennis again in a serious way when they moved to Falmouth permanently in 1971, has enjoyed living and volunteering here. Before Neighborhood Falmouth was formed, she drove for FISH, an organization that used to help people get to their doctor appointments. She has been active at the John Wesley Methodist Church and is also a supporter of the cat shelter, People for Cats. Currently she has two cats of her own, including a gorgeous 20-year-old long hair. It is these cats that keep her and Bob from taking lengthy trips away from home. "I can't leave my cats," she says. She and Bob used to visit the Caribbean islands and Florida for a week in winter, and recently enjoyed a week-long cruise on a paddlewheel steamer on the Columbia River.

It was Bob's excellent idea to share a joint conversation for their Neighborhood Falmouth profile. He knows that Pat is self-effacing and will happily slip under the radar. She opened our visit with "I won't have much to say," and closed with "It's perfectly all right if you leave me out of this article"! It seems clear, however, that her quiet support has been important to Bob's long and successful career, as well as beneficial to Neighborhood Falmouth and the wider community.

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:

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