



NF Computer Class

Recently, members of NF were paired with senior students at Falmouth Academy to address specific technology questions. We've heard wonderful comments of appreciation from members who attended and we understand that the students also enjoyed the time spent with NF.



Soup/Bread Gathering

On January 28th, we gathered in Fellowship Hall at 1st Congregational Church for our annual Soup and Bread luncheon. Vicky Cullen made the soups which were delicious, as always. Crissy Pingal had collected some good soup recipes from board members, and they were available for everyone to take home. After lunch, we enjoyed some readings by Diane Quaid. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a pleasant afternoon, especially to Vicky for the delicious soups, to Pamela Nelson for her help with all the prep work, to

Diane and Crissy and to Joanne and Ben Carnevale for all their help setting up and cleaning up!



Jacqueline Webster, NF Member Treasurer of Board, Volunteer

by Mavise Crocker

Quiet, unassuming, a little shy (by her own admission), you would never imagine the technical expertise that underlies Jackie Webster's outward mien. You would not pick her out in an airport line to be searched. You would not expect to find her surrounded by rapt admirers at a cocktail party. However, the moment she opens her mouth Jackie surprises you with her quiet assurance and her technical knowledge. She has come by this demeanor in a most unusual way.

Jackie grew up in Western Canada on a thousand-acre farm during World War II—a mixed farm of wheat for commerce, and oats, barley, and rye for the animals they kept. It was not an automated

farm—horses were still used to do the heavy work, and cows were milked by hand. Jackie and her brother and sister enjoyed the carefree life of a loving home and a productive farm.

The first nine years of her education were spent in a one-room schoolhouse of about twenty students; there were three in her graduating class. With no electricity or indoor plumbing, there was a hand pump for water, an outhouse, and a barn for the horses that brought the students to school. Older students sometimes mentored the younger ones. For some students, this was the last year of their education, for they were needed to work on the farms. But not for Jackie.

She attended high school in the nearest town four miles away—again, it was a small graduating class of thirty-five. From there she went to the University of Alberta, where she received a B.Sc. in honors math. She also took courses in physics and chemistry. So, despite her rural upbringing, Jackie graduated from college with a strong science background—right at the beginning of the computer evolution.

Her first job was as a computer programmer at an aircraft company where she was one of two women among twenty engineers. After two years she moved to the United States where her husband was studying at M.I.T., and where she worked in the meteorology department in the development of weather forecasting programs. After that, for nearly twenty years she worked at WHOI, where computers were quickly taking hold; then, she went to Washington, D.C., where she worked on programs to be used on board Navy submarines.

After five years Jackie, as a newly single person, became very adventurous and took what was considered a “hardship” position in Fort McMurray, Alberta with a tar sands oil company. There she was trained in data management technology. This was a formative three years for Jackie, a learning experience that showed her she needed to broaden her horizons in order to work in the business as well as the scientific world.

For this she would have to go back to school to study for an MBA. But how to accomplish that while needing to support herself? Luckily, she found a job that would underwrite her education. In Boston, she was hired by a computer company that paid for her MBA courses at Sim-

mons. Although it took several years of graduate classes at night, Jackie received her MBA degree from Simmons School of Management, a school that specializes in assisting women’s progress in management. At an age when most people would be looking toward retirement, Jackie Webster was enlarging her field of vision. For fifteen years Jackie worked at the computer company, surviving a time of buy-outs and mergers. During this time, she worked as a first-line manager and project leader in the field of data warehousing.

When the time came for retirement it was not a sudden cessation of work. Jackie eased gradually into a more quiet life by contracting with an information technology service company, with assignments in the health care insurance business. She could work on a project-by-project basis and on her own schedule. This semi-retirement enabled her to enjoy less stress in her private life, to save for the future, and also to enjoy activities that a full-time job might preclude. It is amazing how, after years devoted to a professional career, one can discover so many unrelated fields of interest unrelated fields of interest.

In addition to becoming a much-loved volunteer for Neighborhood Falmouth, Jackie was for several years a Hospice visitor. She has developed an interest in genealogy recently, putting together a family reunion of over 60 people. Those who have managed similar reunions know the amount of time and research this takes! She has been able to fulfill her passions for cooking and for reading – especially history and biographies—and to delve into the study of plants by volunteering at a local Herbarium, where she is helping to make historical botanical data available on the Internet. She has also been able to indulge in her love of travel with annual trips to Europe: England, Poland, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. Her dream trip would be one to India!

In her self-made career as computer analyst in the field of Information Technology, Jackie has had, in her own words, “the opportunity to learn about a variety of interesting subjects: aircraft design, weather forecasting, oceanography, petroleum extraction and refining, submarine chasing, computer customer service, and health care insurance.”

All this, from a young girl who began her education in a one-room schoolhouse!



Volunteer Meeting

Over 30 NF volunteers attended a working meeting on January 11th where they had a chance to ask questions, make suggestions, and update their contact information and current availability. The meeting was productive and full of energy. Many expressed a desire to have meetings more often, perhaps quarterly. Each person filled out new information and availability forms which we think will be very helpful to us and especially for Phylisanne. For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, we'll be sending you the new forms soon.

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

NF Book Club: February 2nd

The Book Club will meet at 2:30, Thursday, February 2nd. We will be discussing "Paths of Glory" by Jeffrey Archer. If you'd like to join us, please call the office for more information.

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: February 6th

We have reserved a table at Friendly's for Monday, February 6th, at 9 a.m. Please join us for a cup of coffee if you can.

Next NF Board Meeting: February 16th

NF Board of Directors will meet at 2:00, Thursday, February 16th in the Faxon II at Falmouth Hospital (on the floor below the Faxon Center).

Meet for Lunch: February 22nd

We are reserving tables at the Coonamessett Inn for 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, February 22nd. All members, volunteers and guests are welcome. Please call the office to reserve a seat. If you find you can attend at the last minute, just come. We'll simply add another chair.

HOW WE USED NEIGHBORHOOD FALMOUTH

An NF volunteer changed a bulb in an outside motion-detector light using a step ladder which we can no longer climb. When he found that the new bulb was bad, he drove me to the store and back to get a new bulb.

Megan and Dick Jones, NF Members

NF/SENIOR DISCOUNTS

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

Eastman/Ace Hardware: 10% discount to members of NF on most full priced items and available every day.

Windfall Market: 5% Senior discount every Wednesday.

Family Foods: 10% Senior discount every Wednesday (no deli items or alcohol).

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

Dunkin' Donuts: 10% any time—you have to ask.

We gratefully acknowledge support from the following merchants who responded to our recent business appeal letter:

Four Guys in Tuxes
 Dr. Edward H. Fitch
 Hamilton Tree & Landscape
 Falmouth Elks Club
 Stone L'Oven Pizza Co.
 Chapman, Cole and Gleason
 Lawrence & Lynch
 Uncle Bill's Country Store Florist