

January 2015

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to 2015! We hope this new year will be filled with happy times and the company of old and new friends. We are so glad you are a part of Neighborhood Falmouth.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Meet for Breakfast: January 12

Our monthly Meet for Breakfast is January 12th at Friendly's at 9:00 a.m. All members, volunteers, and their friends 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!

### Meet for Lunch: January 21

Last month 20 NF members and volunteers gathered at the Coonamessett Inn for lunch. With memories of that delicious meal in mind, we'll meet there again on Wednesday, January 21, at 11:45 a.m. All 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.

### NF Book Club: January 22

Our next read is *Invisible City* by Julia Dahl. We'll be meeting in the library at Atria (the new side) on Thursday, January 22, at 2:30 p.m. Call the office for directions. Newcomers are welcome!

### Annual Winter Gathering Lunch: January 24<sup>th</sup>

The Annual NF Winter Gathering Lunch will be Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, in the Fellowship Hall at First Congregation Church on the Green. Lunch is free and open to all NF members, volunteers and guests.



*NF member Chickie Stommel in her kitchen.*

## A Profile of NF Member Elizabeth "Chickie" Stommel By Pamela Nelson

Neighborhood Falmouth's director, Susan Loucks, called Chickie Stommel on the phone recently. "You haven't asked for anything," said Susan. "Isn't there something we can do for you? Could you use some help with your rubbish?" Chickie, who admits she is not used to asking for help, recalled that tying up cardboard boxes for recycling is tedious and getting hard for her. She accepted Susan's offer, and admits she was amazed when a volunteer showed up, clearing away all the accumulated boxes in a single visit. "I was thrilled!" she says.

Chickie has lived in her home in the Sippewissett area for almost 50 years. Her husband, renowned physical oceanographer Henry Stommel, died about 25 years ago, but she continues to maintain (with help nowadays) the large flower and vegetable gardens she and Hank used

to plant together, and she also tends the nearby fruit trees. She and her dog take long walks at the beach or in the woods, and they play “dog tennis” out in the yard. These activities frame the background of her busy days.

Born in Boston and raised in Cambridge until she was 11, Chickie says she really grew up in Minneapolis, where her father was an English professor at the University of Minnesota. The oldest of six children, she went to public and then private day schools in Minneapolis and helped look after her siblings. Her mother, in the meantime, was devoting most of her attention to one son, who was sick with rheumatic fever. Chickie eventually escaped to college, after graduating from high school on the day of the Allied Normandy Invasion (D-Day.) She wanted to attend Sarah Lawrence College, but her father thought she would find nearby New York City too tempting, and sent her to Bennington College in Vermont instead. During Bennington’s long winter work breaks, Chickie worked on the “slush pile” at Houghton Mifflin publishers in Cambridge one year, and another year worked in Manhattan for Columbia professor Jacques Barzun, helping him research a book on Berlioz. After college, she returned home to find that Robert Penn Warren had moved into her parents’ large home and had his dinners with her family. She found him a wonderful tutor who shared his time generously with her.

Chickie soon left for Woods Hole, a place she had discovered during summer visits with her maternal grandfather, who was a pediatrician in Falmouth before the war. She found work waitressing at the Landfall and often ate dinners at WHOI’s mess hall, where she mingled with WHOI scientists and eventually met Hank Stommel. He was working on ocean currents, but his interests were wide-ranging, and he enjoyed reading (even the *Encyclopedia Britannica*) as well as exploring the Cape with Chickie, whether at Ashumet Pond or the Sturgis Library. Eventually they married, bought a house, and had children. (The oldest, Matt, was formerly a commercial fisherman and is now a boat builder. Elijah is a neurologist at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, while Abby is a nurse manager at Falmouth Hospital.)

The family spent a year in Paris after Hank won a Guggenheim Fellowship. Elijah and Abby attended the American School of Paris, where they learned French while keeping up with their studies through a program based on an American style of pedagogy. When Elijah wanted to take violin lessons, Chickie found an ad on the wall of the Metro for a small music school, where he studied violin

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## JANUARY 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.

### **Concert Featuring West African Music: Sunday, January 11, 2:00 p.m.**

A concert of West African music featuring kora and flute at the Woods Hole Public Library. This concert features Sean Gaskell on the 21 string harp-like West African kora, and Dave Kobrenski on Fulani flute. Tickets are \$15, and may be purchased in advance at the Bank of Woods Hole, Eight Cousins Bookstore, the Woods Hole Library, and at the Library on the day of the show. For more information call (508) 548-8961.

### **Dinner and a Movie at Jewish Congregation: Friday, January 16, 2015, beginning at 6:45 p.m.**

The Falmouth Jewish Congregation will sponsor the film “I Shall Not Be Silent” by Joachim Prinz, preceded by dinner, on January 16 at 7 Hatchville Road. Minutes before Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington, Joachim Prinz, a Newark rabbi, took his turn at the podium. His words eloquently connected his experience in Nazi Germany to his commitment to battling racism in America. Dinner follows the Shabbat service at about 6:45 p.m., and the film screening begins at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. For more information call 508-540-0602.

### **Poetry Reading at Falmouth Forum: Friday, January 16, 7:30 p.m.**

The MBL Falmouth Forum Lecture Series presents a poetry reading with Rosanna Warren, Distinguished Service Professor, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago. The reading will be held at Lillie Auditorium, 7 MBL Street, Woods Hole, and is free. For more information call (508) 289-7423.

### **“Arsenic and Old Lace” by Theatre Guild: Weekends January 30 to February 8,**

The Falmouth Theatre Guild presents “Arsenic and Old Lace” at Highfield Theater, Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. A theater favorite to brighten your January! Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$16 for children under 18, and \$18 for seniors 62 and over. Purchase tickets at the door or online at [falmouththeatreguild.org](http://falmouththeatreguild.org). For more information, call (508) 548-0400.

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*“Chickie” Stommel continued*

with a famous retired violinist, and Chickie studied organ with a retired organist, well known at the time.

Chickie's organ studies later led to jobs playing at the Church of the Messiah, St. Barnabas, and later off-Cape. She said it came as a surprise to be paid. But an organist is always on call, she found, for funerals, weddings, and other occasions as well as Sunday services, and eventually she gave up playing organ for churches.

She became interested in chaplaincy and studied to become a hospital chaplain. Chickie was particularly interested in serving in intensive care waiting rooms, where families of patients need a sympathetic ear. She worked at South Shore Hospital, particularly inspired to be there when she found that some hospital chaplains “did not have time for patients' families” unless they were paid to serve them. Currently, she volunteers as a chaplain on weekends at Falmouth Hospital.

“I also run a journaling course for Haven for Healing, an organization that tries to help people with cancer,” she says. Her small writing group meets about twice a month, and Chickie suggests topics for participants to write about. She says some people find the whole idea too frightening, but others find it deeply satisfying and helpful. Generally they read aloud what they have written, often leading to discussion. Sometimes people take their notebooks home to continue work on something they started at their session together. “They're sick and have a lot to say,” she says. The members of the group often work on scary topics, “but life is scary for all of us, and I want them to get to the core of what is worst for them,” says Chickie. “It's like doing chaplaincy. It can be an eye-opener for them to hear themselves say what has happened. I don't want it to be a trial for them. Hopefully, they will get to the heart of the matter for themselves when they hear themselves say (or write) their thoughts.”

Talking about chaplaincy and her journaling course, Chickie conveys courage, empathy, and a steely resolve to face difficult issues. While she doubtless will benefit from her association with Neighborhood Falmouth, the organization is lucky to have found a new member with her background, training, and energy. She sums it all up nicely when she says, in her understated fashion, “I keep busy.”



*NF volunteers Betsy Zimmerli, Rhona Carlton-Foss, and Samm Carlton stack wood for an NF Member.*

### **How Much Wood Could a Volunteer Chuck if a Volunteer Could Chuck Wood?**

Thanks to intrepid volunteers Rhona Carlton-Foss, Samm Carlton, and Betsy Zimmerli, NF member Kay Paine had a cord of wood moved from her driveway to her garage. NF volunteers are ready to help with all sorts of projects, from giving you a friendly phone call or visit to taking your garbage out or moving large quantities of chopped wood! Just let us know what you need, and we'll do our best. Don't be shy!

### **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](https://www.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](https://www.smile.amazon.com)!

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## 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.

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Stop & Shop Companies, Inc.  
Waterbury Optometry  
Windfall Market & Windfall Florals  
Wood Lumber Company  
Woods Hole Foundation

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### 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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