



Newsletter

January 2014

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NF ANNUAL WINTER GATHERING

NF's annual winter luncheon will take place at noon on **Saturday, January 25th** in Fellowship Hall at the First Congregational Church on the village green. We invite all NF members, volunteers and guests to join us for delicious soups and breads and good fellowship. Jeannette Fullerton will entertain us with a marvelous short story by Jane Gardam. The church is handicapped accessible and an elevator is available.

For planning purposes, we are requesting RSVPs. If you would like to attend, just call or email the office. If you will need transportation, please let us know as soon as possible.

NF is providing the luncheon; however, if you'd like to bring something, cookies or bars are welcome.

NF OFFICE IS MOVING

The NF office is being moved from North Falmouth to office space on the second floor of the Chamber of Commerce building in downtown Falmouth on Tuesday, December 31st. You will be able to reach us by calling on the regular line, but our access to emails may be limited until we are fully back to "business as usual" by Monday, January 6th.

VOLUNTEER MEETING

On Monday, January 13th, at 10:00 a.m., we will be meeting with NF volunteers in Fellowship Hall, First Congregational Church on the Green. This is an opportunity for you to hear about a new NF program, ask questions or make suggestions, and to have a cup of coffee with fellow volunteers.

We invite you to bring friends who may be interested in volunteering. We hope to see you there.



Mildred Lisk
Member

By Pamela Nelson

Neighborhood Falmouth member Millie Lisk was born in the Connecticut mill town of Manchester before the Great Depression. Her father was a manager at Cheney Silk Mills, which in those days operated around the clock. In summers, Millie recalls, with mill windows open, the town was not only hot but also extremely noisy. Millie's father built a family cottage on a large lake in nearby Coventry in order to take his wife and five children away from the heat and racket. The cottage was well built and maintained, and has remained an important gathering place for Millie's family to this day. In summers when Millie was young, the children enjoyed swimming, sailing, and canoeing on

the lake, and as they got older, they attended dances featuring the music of visiting big bands—Millie met Kerwin, her future husband, at one such dance.

When the United States entered WWII, Kerwin enlisted in the Air Force, and he and Millie got engaged before he left. After his basic training, he was sent to Ogden, Utah, to await deployment. He implored Millie to come to Ogden to marry him before he shipped out. Against the advice of her mother and sister, Millie bought herself a wedding dress, took a short leave from her job in a Hartford bank, and boarded a train for Ogden, her wedding dress in a box on her lap. Because troop trains had priority during wartime, her train was frequently sidelined to allow troop trains to pass, and the trip to Ogden took three days.

When she finally arrived, Kerwin had been confined to base because deployment was imminent, and he was not there at first to meet her. However, he did obtain permission to go collect his bride-to-be. He had arranged for the wedding to take place the following day, when the minister of the local Methodist Church performed the marriage. Flowers had been left from a wedding on the previous day, and the minister's wife stood in as matron of honor. Houseguests visiting the minister filled in as best man and witnesses. Millie spent just five days with her new husband before she had to return to her job. Perhaps the best wedding gift of all was the fact that Kerwin received word that he had been accepted to Officers' Candidate School and would not have to ship out with the other troops.

OCS was in Miami Beach, and the couple spent time together there while he trained. The day Millie told him she was pregnant was the day Kerwin found out that he was being sent to North Africa. He served there and in Italy before heading to Japan on a troop ship. However, the war ended while he was still at sea, and the ship was diverted to New York, where the men were discharged from the military.

Kerwin and his very pregnant wife went to Rockville, CT, where Kerwin's mother lived. While visiting with her, Millie held a friend's child on her lap. A few days later she learned that the little girl had contracted mumps. Millie, too, got the mumps. Concerned, Millie called her doctor, who said, "Well, don't go into labor. I can't get you into the hospital since you have a contagious disease!" Of course, says Millie, she went into labor that night. She was admitted to an "isolation hospital" in

DATES TO REMEMBER

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: January 6th

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 6th, at Friendly's for a cup of coffee and/or breakfast. It's a great way to begin the week!

Meet for Lunch: January 15th

In response to several requests, we are trying various restaurants around town for Meet for Lunch. On Wednesday, January 15th, 11:45 a.m., we will meet at La Cucina Sul Mare, 237 Main St. 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: January 16th

NF Board of Directors will be meeting at 2:00 on Thursday, January 16th, in the Board Room at Falmouth Chamber of Commerce.

NF Book Group: January 23rd

We will be meeting at 2:30 on Thursday, January 23rd, to discuss *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. If you like to read or listen to books, please join us by calling the NF office for the location.

Hartford, and her new daughter, Linda, was immediately transferred to a nearby municipal hospital. Millie was not permitted to see her until the infant was two weeks old, but Kerwin visited them both and reported to Millie that their new daughter was doing well.

Kerwin took a managerial job with Met Life, and over the years the couple lived with their four children in various locations in New York state and Connecticut. During their years in Syracuse, they frequently invited international students from the university to join them for holiday meals. In Litchfield, CT, Millie initially worked in the social studies department of a combined junior/senior high school. She became the advisor for AFS (American Field Service), coordinating exchanges for yearlong student visits, both for students coming

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from abroad and for Litchfield students traveling overseas. A highlight of her AFS involvement was chaperoning nine students from three states on a summer visit to Kenilworth, England, where Millie stayed in the home of a British professor. That host family has since visited Millie in America.

Millie became a school librarian through an unusual set of circumstances. The man serving as school librarian at the time, with a degree from Brown, had such poor rapport with the students that some were flushing library books down the toilet! When the Litchfield superintendent of schools asked her to become the school librarian, Millie pointed out that she did not have a library science degree. So the superintendent arranged for her to work a four-day week and pursue a master of library science degree on Fridays as well as in the summer. After earning her degree, she became the school librarian, a role she continued on a volunteer basis at Falmouth High School and Lawrence School after moving to Falmouth.

While in Litchfield, Millie's family embraced a unique opportunity. They hosted a young Nigerian man, Danjuma, whom they had heard would go far if given the chance to further his education in the United States. Millie and Kerwin welcomed Danjuma into their home and family, giving him the opportunity to finish high school in Litchfield. Danjuma then attended an additional year of prep school before applying to college. Although he was accepted everywhere he applied, including a number of Ivy League schools, he did not want to burden his new family with costly tuition, especially since the parents had two kids of their own in college. Instead, he went to the University of Arizona, where he found the weather more to his liking. Ultimately, he earned a doctorate in education. Danjuma, who now lives in Alabama, stays in touch by telephone with Millie, whom he calls "Mom." Two summers ago he brought his family to the Coventry cottage for a joyful reunion with "Mom" and the rest of his adoptive family.

Kerwin and Millie remained in Litchfield until they came to Falmouth upon Kerwin's retirement. After Kerwin's death in 1997, Millie moved from her house on Sippewissett Place to a condominium. Since her move, she has led a local stroke support group for sixteen years. Millie is a grateful member of Neighborhood Falmouth, and speaks appreciatively of her weekly grocery shopping expeditions with a Neighborhood Falmouth volunteer and two other NF members. She no longer drives and is pleased that the organization helps her stay connected.

WINTER GREETING FROM A NF MEMBER

Would that for a moment
We might each stop in our day
To seek the true company of some small living thing of
nature;
Just for one brief, real moment.

Then to go forth into the world, un-shrouded in ancient
belief,
Un-burdened by special attachment to any group or
nation:
Then to go forth simply as a citizen of the globe,
As a being on a planet of similar beings.

Then hate could not be justified
And war would not be inevitable.
Then for our brief and mutable span,
We might share the rapture of living, and the joy of that
sharing.

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
Hamilton Tree & Landscape
Janney Montgomery Scott
Lawrence Lynch Corporation
Locust Street Sign Company
Uncle Bill's Country Store Florist
Pies A La Mode Café
Stop 'n Shop
Waterbury & Olson Optometry
Windfall Market