

July 2012

Office Phone: 508-564-7543



Singer Stephanie Miele, right, and pianist Lucy Banner

Broadway Comes to Falmouth July 22!

Here's the perfect way to end the afternoon or begin the evening on a summer Sunday in Falmouth: join Stephanie Miele and piano accompanist Lucy Banner for "Songs for a Summer Eve", a concert to benefit Neighborhood Falmouth. Falmouth's favorite singer will entertain concert goers at the First Congregational Church, Falmouth Town Green, on Sunday, July 22, with songs from *Camelot*, *The Fantasticks*, *A Chorus Line*, *Porgy and Bess*, and music and words by composers and lyricists such as Sondheim, Rogers and Hart, Gershwin, Porter, and more. The music begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends in time for supper, near 6. All tickets are \$15, and can be purchased at the door or in advance at Eight Cousins Books in Falmouth and Uncle Bill's Country Store in North Falmouth. Thanks to Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank and Matthew Waterbury, Optometrist, for sponsoring this event.

We hope you will come yourself and also tell your family and friends about the concert. As always, members needing a ride should call the office. Here's to a full house and great music!

Can You Help?

One of our new members is in need of a small cart or wagon that she can use to take her trash bags to the curb once a week. If you have one you're willing to donate, please call the office. Thanks!



Bea Wittenberg, Member

by Pamela Nelson

"I was born in Berlin," begins Bea Wittenberg. Both of her parents were pediatricians, but her father had stipulated that her mother must stop working when they married. An only child, Bea and her parents immigrated to Toronto when she was still in elementary school. Bea, who had studied British English in Germany, was immediately sent off to summer camp and was able to skip several grades when she entered school in the fall. It was not so easy a transition for her 46-year-old father, who was not fluent in English and who had left a

NF's First Fundraising Event, Wine Tasting on Penzance Point: A Great Success!

Many hands contributed to Neighborhood Falmouth's first venture in staging a fundraising event, Sunset Wine Tasting on Penzance Point. Special thanks, of course, go to NF Charter Member Prosser Gifford, for welcoming us to his beautiful home the evening of June 29.

Thanks, also, to Janet Simons Folger for chairing the event; to Betty Stuermer for organizing the wine presentation; to Lindsay Hopewood and Crissy Pingal for assembling the raffle; to Neighborhood Falmouth Board members for raffle donations; to volunteer wine pourers, including Rob Goldsborough, John Gwynne, Kerrie Liska, Marie Liska, Vivagean Merz, Bobbie Miner, Kay Paine, and Dan Stuermer; to servers Emily Botelho, Chet Kilfoyle, and Bret Folger; to Joe Scott for guitar music; and to all who attended the event.

We encourage your patronage of the following people and businesses for donations of time, services, goods, or raffle gift certificates to help make the wine tasting evening a great success:

Jay Hedlund of
Falmouth Wine & Spirits
Ben & Bill's Chocolate Emporium
Board Stiff
Eight Cousins Bookstore
Falmouth Chamber of Commerce
Food for Thought
Ghelfi's Candies of Cape Cod
Hatchville Pottery
Holiday Cycles
Homespun Garden
Island Queen
Jack in the Beanstalk
Kaleidoscope Toys
Molly's Tea Room
Nancy Wendlendt, Pianist
Patriot Party Boats
Peking Palace
The Glass Onion
Twigs
Uncle Bill's Country Store &
Flower Shop
White's Bakery (Mashpee)
Windfall Market

Bea Wittenberg (continued from page 1)

flourishing practice in Germany before the Nazis abruptly terminated his services as professor. Canadian authorities required that he repeat the last year of medical school before he could resume practicing medicine.

Bea always felt pressured by her parents to excel in school in order to maintain her scholarship benefits. While still living at home with her parents, she received her undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto in physiology and biochemistry and subsequently earned a master's degree in physiology. A Canadian mentor then arranged for her to pursue her Ph.D. studies under the Chairman of Pharmacology at Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

While in Cleveland, she met her future husband, Jonathan, in a seminar course. During the summer of 1950, Jonathan had traveled out West, taking photographs of American Indians. Bea recalls their first date in Cleveland, when he invited her to his apartment to see his photographs. He was eager to mount the photos but needed an iron to do so. They began getting together to work on his photographs, Bea arriving with the required iron.

Bea's Ph.D. advisor moved to Yale University, and Bea followed, needing to stay in his lab to maintain her student visa. One night at Yale she got trapped alone on an elevator. The night watchman responded to the alarm bells, shouting to her down the elevator shaft, but it was a most frightening experience, and some time elapsed before she was actually rescued. Then Bea arrived home to find a letter from Jonathan, hiking in the Tetons, inviting himself to come visit. He arrived within the week and proposed marriage. Although she was wearing an engagement ring from a Czech engineer who was back in Toronto, she accepted Jonathan's proposal.

They were married in March of 1954 in New York, before she defended her Ph.D. thesis. Jonathan had astutely recognized that Bea would lose her student visa upon receiving her Ph.D. Her German passport had been revoked years earlier by the Nazis, but the U.S. would not consider her naturalization as a Canadian citizen, and she faced German quotas which would not have permitted her to enter the U.S. for about three years.

(continued on page 3)

Bea Wittenberg *(continued from page 2)*

In 1955, the couple moved to New York, where Jonathan had accepted a position at the new Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Bea began work setting up a chemistry lab at Francis Delafield Hospital, associated with New York University. However, pregnant with the first of their three children, she was forced to stop work. Bea was never happy as a stay-at-home mom and went back to work in Jonathan's lab as soon as she was able to, even though at first her part time salary did not fully cover childcare. Later she applied for and received her own full funding from the National Institutes of Health, and paying for good childcare was no longer an issue.

For Bea, their 1965 sabbatical in Rome is a favorite memory. Jonathan stayed in their apartment writing papers on all the work he had been doing for years, while Bea boarded a streetcar and went to a lab to do research. She recalls that Jonathan did go to a meeting in England that year, where their sabbatical host appreciatively referred to the "wonderful work done by Wittenberg" in his lab.

In 1954, the Wittenberg family began summering in Woods Hole, living at first in the MBL Brick Dorm, and later renting houses in the village. In 1971, Bea took on the presidency of the Children's School of Science—a transformative role for her. Accustomed to sitting quietly in meetings, rarely speaking, she found that she had an organizational talent and enjoyed encouraging those working on upgrading the Science School curriculum.

In 1989, the Wittenbergs built a home in Woods Hole, where they retired in 2009. Bea is still on the editorial board of *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*. She participates in a local book group and has set herself a rigorous four-hour personal exercise program three days a week at the Falmouth Sports Center. She finds that the program helps her to feel healthy, even though she complains of being "slow." The couple joined Neighborhood Falmouth when they found some household tasks beyond their strength and endurance.

Unaccustomed to talking about herself, Bea tapped memories for this article that she had not visited in years. Patient and thorough, while presenting a basic discussion of her Ph.D. research, she waited until she saw the light of recognition in my eyes before proceeding. The research she did in the early 1950's was the basis for subsequent

work of others that led to a Nobel Prize in Physiology in 1959. As I was leaving, she said quietly, "And I isolated heart cells for metabolic studies. Liver cells had been isolated earlier, but the heart cells were more difficult..." These isolated cells were used to study the role of myoglobin in augmenting the oxygen supply to heart cells.

HOW I'VE USED NF SERVICES

As a two-year member, I can truly say that in no way could I manage without NF. Being legally blind, I would be up the creek without a paddle if I were on my own. Ken, Karin, and Laura do everything possible to accommodate my needs. Additionally, the volunteers are fabulous! So friendly and always willing to assist me. Kudos to all of you. Thanks!

Polly Stansfield

DATES TO REMEMBER

NF Board Meeting: July 19th

The July Board Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 19th, at Falmouth Academy.

NF Book Club: August 23rd

The next meeting of the book club will be on Thursday, August 23rd, at 2:30 p.m. We'll be discussing *River of Smoke* by Amitav Ghosh. Please call the office for location.

**Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: September 10th
Meet for Lunch: September 19th**

These gatherings are taking a summer break. Please join us for a cup of coffee at 9 a.m. at Friendly's on Monday, September 10th. The next Meet for Lunch will be on Wednesday, September 19th, 11:45 a.m. at Coonamessett. All members, volunteers, and guests are welcome. Please call the office to reserve a seat for lunch.

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

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