

July 2013

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## **NF ANNUAL WINE TASTING EVENT**

Our Annual Wine Tasting fundraising event was held on June 28 in North Falmouth. Despite the grim weather forecast, it did not rain and everyone had a good time. The food and wine were excellent and entertainment by the Notescapes was delightful. Thank you to our hosts, Cam and Lou Larrey, to all those who worked so hard to organize the party, and to everyone who attended in support of NF.

## **WHEN YOU REQUEST A VOLUNTEER**

Please do your best to give at least 72 hours notice (three business days) for any service request in order to allow the assisting volunteer time to plan ahead. We try to accommodate last-minute requests but cannot promise that anyone will be available to help without sufficient notice. Thanks!



**Bobbie Miner, Board Member, Volunteer**  
*by Pamela Nelson*

Bobbie Miner, a member of the Neighborhood Falmouth Board of Directors, laughingly recalls her childhood as the youngest of three sisters, saying, "I was the upstart. I was always on the edge of challenging the status quo, pursuing new avenues, feeling a sense of adventure, certain that there was more out there than we already knew."

It has been said that most of us begin to resist change as we age, but Bobbie Miner remains a holdout, true to that upstart child. Throughout her life she seems to have avoided the trap of finding a single niche to follow in life, intrigued by the idea of possibility and open to a sense of being guided by something greater than herself. It is not surprising that she describes her life as a journey, and her travels have been both internal and global.

The daughter of a surgeon and a homemaker/former music teacher, Bobbie left Englewood, NJ, to attend the University of Michigan,

where early on she switched from a major in music (“my voice was my instrument,”) to an interdepartmental concentration in religion, finally ending as an English major. She was fascinated with the power of thought, of word, and of faith, and with the idea that theology can help to empower people. On graduation from college, trying to enter the job market with others of similar amorphous background—“the English majors and others unsure what to do next with their lives, all hanging out there like a dangling participle”—she was fortunate to join a small group enrolled in the Publishing Procedures program at Radcliffe. There they were introduced to the world of publishing through an intensive summer course.

Next followed a stay in Geneva, Switzerland, where a former neighbor had arranged for her to take a job with Investor Overseas Services. A year later, she returned home for a sister’s wedding, and then landed in New York City, where she worked for several years as a researcher and fact-checker for *Reader’s Digest*. She was involved in some exciting articles coming out of the magazine’s Washington office, including coverage of Israel’s Six-Day War and muckraking stories on the KGB’s attempts to place foreign diplomats in compromising situations. The latter took her to France to interview one of that country’s previous ambassadors to Moscow.

Seized again by wanderlust, she arranged to take off three months to raft down the Colorado River and to visit California and Mexico with old friends and colleagues. Now thinking herself ready to write a book, she rented an apartment in a farmhouse in Vermont and bought herself a typewriter. The book was quickly put on hold, however, when she realized she was out of money. Instead, she took a job at Middlebury College, in time becoming the Director of Alumni Relations, as well as tennis partner to Rich Miner, who was Assistant to the President of the college. A few years later, she and Rich married, becoming partners for life, as well as parents a year later of a new baby girl, Meredith. When Rich decided to pursue a career in development for healthcare nonprofits, the young family moved to Concord, MA, where Rich became Senior Vice President for Philanthropy at the Lahey Clinic. Baby Wendy was born in Concord shortly after their arrival in 1979.

Just prior to Wendy’s birth, the first in a series of devastating family losses occurred. One of Bobbie’s sisters, also a mother of two children, was diagnosed in her early forties with a malignant brain tumor. Her death 18 months later was fol-



### LOOK FAMILIAR?

Nat Corwin, one of NF’s charter members, passed away recently. You may remember seeing Nat on his “trike” as he traveled around Falmouth, running errands. His family would like to give the trike to someone affiliated with NF who would enjoy using it. It is a Trek with a 15.5” frame. The 3-wheeler is in excellent condition. Please call the office if you are interested.

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lowed within a few years by the deaths of Bobbie’s mother, also of cancer, and shortly thereafter of her father, from cancer as well. Bobbie found herself grieving but also wondering why there were no support systems in place to help her and her entire family cope. (The Hospice movement in this country was in its infancy at that time, she explains.) She felt strongly that people have the right to die with dignity, that their friends and family have the right to learn how to “be with” the sick and dying, and she saw these needs as a huge social justice issue, crying to be addressed.

These traumatic life events propelled her in a new direction. Once both Wendy and Meredith were in school, Bobbie enrolled at Andover-Newton Theological School, with the idea of training to be a hospital chaplain. She was hoping to learn to give solace through shared language, specifically through her belief that naming things, “commonizing” experiences, including death, is important to coping. Over the six years that it took to earn her M.Div. degree, however, she became increasingly fascinated by group dynamics and the power of community to create change; eventually, she felt called to the ordained ministry as a parish minister. She worked for two years at the Union

Church of Stow before becoming Minister for Pastoral Care at the Wellesley Village Church.

At this time she also trained to become an Intentional Interim Minister, a very specialized role that offers guidance to a church community facing the grief and loss accompanying the departure of a long-term minister. Bobbie also attended the Shalem Institute in Washington, an interfaith group, where she studied the power of contemplative prayer and of silence. As an extension of this training, she led a group in Concord in contemplative prayer for eleven years. Simultaneously, she became the Minister for Program at the Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod, planning retreats, engaging retreat leaders, and leading some retreats herself.

Sharing world travel with their young daughters was important to Rich and Bobbie, and the couple still finds trips abroad a significant and satisfying part of their lives. Their travels have taken them to Africa, on a safari to Botswana, to visit their nurse practitioner daughter in Tanzania, and on a moving pilgrimage to Rwanda churches that still show the effects of the terrible violence there. With Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel), she and Rich have visited New Zealand and Australia, and they plan a trip to Alaska in July, again with Road Scholar, where they are looking forward to kayaking from their small ship.

On her continuing inner journey, Bobbie has embraced the role of facilitator and teacher, often acting as participant-leader. She is impressed as much by the impact of dialogue and story, especially personal story, as by that of silence. These tools and her experience as a facilitator frame the skills that she brings to the different groups she has joined since she and Rich moved to Falmouth in 2001. She worked for seven years as a volunteer chaplain at Falmouth Hospital and has provided leadership for various groups in need of community healing and reflection, including Hospice of Cape Cod where she was involved with offering care for the caretakers.

Her involvement with Friends of Falmouth Dogs brought the opportunity to share support with other volunteers and the chance to adopt Norman, her rescue dog. She finds daily personal nourishment in contemplative prayer, as well as in music, gardening, and taking walks with Norman. Bobbie is proud of the docent program she helped to shape at Highfield Hall, of the outreach program for the Falmouth Chorale, of which she is a member, and she loves serving on the membership committee of Neighborhood Falmouth, where she

enjoys helping to create ways to build community, one approach being getting together with members in small groups to listen to their stories.

"There is a difference between waiting to be heard and really listening to others," Bobbie says. "It is a core value, both in retreats and in life itself, one that can be taken to any part of one's life."

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

### **NF Board Meeting: July 18<sup>th</sup>**

NF Board of Directors will be meeting at 2:00 on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, at Highfield Hall.

### **NF Book Group: August 1<sup>st</sup>**

We will be meeting at 2:30 on Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. We try to select books that Falmouth Library has in audio format. If you like to read, please join us by calling the NF office for the location.

### **Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: September 8<sup>th</sup>**

We will not be getting together during the summer months, but please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at Friendly's for a cup of coffee and/or breakfast. It's a great way to begin the week!

### **Meet for Lunch: September 18<sup>th</sup>**

We will not be meeting during the summer. Our next monthly luncheon at Coonamessett Inn will be on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 a.m. All members, volunteers, and guests are welcome. We order from the menu and individual checks are provided. Please call the office to reserve a place.

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## REMINDER: FALMOUTH FUND GRANT

NF received a grant from the Falmouth Fund of the Cape Cod Foundation to support services to NF members by a knowledgeable Advocate Contractor. He is available to review and evaluate bids for home repairs and to ensure that they represent a comparable scope of work. He is available to do a site visit. Please call the office to take advantage of this service.

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## 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.

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 support from the following merchants and organizations:

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