

NF To Hold First Fund Raisers

Neighborhood Falmouth's first fund raising event will be held June 29 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., thanks to the gracious hospitality of Charter Member Prosser Gifford. "Sunset Wine Tasting on Penzance Point" is being planned by Development Chair Janet Simons Folger and her committee along with Betty Stuermer and Falmouth Wine & Spirits proprietor Jay Hedlund. As noted in the annual appeal sent to NF members and friends, tickets for this event are priced at \$100 per person.

Our second fund raiser, "Songs for a Summer Evening," will feature local chanteuse Stephanie Miele, accompanied by pianist Lucy Banner. This concert will be held in the sanctuary of the Congregational Church on Falmouth Town Green on Sunday, July 22, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Ticket cost is \$15.00. We hope you'll join us for this special summer eve.

"Silver Threads"

NF recently started a new monthly column in the *Falmouth Enterprise*, designed especially for Falmouth senior citizens. We'll have articles on subjects as varied as tips on entertaining visiting grandchildren to advice on what agencies and services are available to provide needed help. If you like to write, we invite you to join us in our new venture. Call the NF Directors for more information. Also, if there's a special topic you'd like us to explore in our column, please let us know.

Volunteer Meeting: June 11th

We are having a volunteer meeting at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall at 1st Congregational Church on the Green. Please come and welcome our new Volunteer Coordinator, Laura Sonnichsen. Updated volunteer pamphlets and badges will be available, and refreshments will be served.



Laura Sonnichsen, Volunteer Coordinator
by Pamela Nelson

It was shortly after moving to Falmouth in 2006 that Laura Fasanelli Tutino went to see a man about a violin. In 2003, she had been hired as Assistant to the Director of Major Gifts at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. For various reasons, Laura, a violinist, had set aside her violin and musical pursuits for 10 years. Having made the decision that she was ready to begin playing music again, she consulted Fritz Sonnichsen, a WHOI engineer and physicist specializing in laser spectroscopy and optics. Fritz happened to have a passion for music and in his East Falmouth home a collection of violins and keyboard instruments, which he both plays and restores.

Laura's decision to consult with Fritz led, over time, to a collaboration that has not only transformed both their lives but has also brought pleasure and gratification to amateur musicians and music lovers in and around Falmouth. In meeting with Fritz, Laura found the violin she was looking for as well as outside encouragement to pursue music again. When they met, neither Laura nor



FA students at work in Alison Robb's yard.

Thanks to Falmouth Academy Students

NF Members would like to thank students of the Senior Class at Falmouth Academy for all that they did to assist with many spring chores this spring. This is the fourth year that students have generously offered their services to NF members, and they are very much appreciated! In April, members of the new Civic Project club at Falmouth High School also offered assistance to a few of our members. It's wonderful to be part of a community where young people are willing to reach out and offer a helping hand to another generation.

HOW I'VE USED NF SERVICES

I've been a member of NF for two years now. I truly do not know how I could manage without NF. Volunteers help me with so many things, not just transportation. Because I'm legally blind, they also help me update such paperwork as medical forms.

—Polly Stansfield

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.

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Fritz was looking for a life companion nor expected to organize a community orchestra. In time, however, their mutual interest in chamber music and in playing music together led to their founding, with oboist Joyce Gindra, the Falmouth Chamber Players Orchestra in 2008, and more recently to their marriage early in 2012.

The Falmouth Chamber Players Orchestra emerged from a wistful desire expressed by Laura that there might one day be a summer orchestra she and Fritz could play in. Actually, with John Yankee as their conductor, the chamber group she once dared to imagine now meets and plays year round, most recently in the combined concert "Clap Your Hands," with the Falmouth Chorale and Ensemble Passacaglia. Laura was delighted to find that NF Directors Ken and Karin Bohr are in the Chorale and share her love of music.

Laura was born in Brooklyn, but while she was still an infant, the family moved to the northeast Bronx, where she and older sister Doreen were raised. Laura, already an accomplished pianist, was accepted at the High School of Music and Art in Manhattan, where she took up the violin. She continued her musical studies at the Herbert H. Lehman College (Hunter College), part of the City University of New York. After completing her education, Laura moved to New Jersey, where she lived in a number of towns and cities before moving to Cape Cod in 1996. Since resuming her musical endeavors, she has been teaching violin to people of all ages and continues to accept new students.

The Sonnichsen house in East Falmouth, where Laura now lives, is surrounded by the flowers and shrubs she has planted. With plenty of shade available behind the house, she has set out hostas and astilbes. This spring she was delighted to find a lady's slipper amongst the ferns out under the pine trees at the side of the house. From indoors, Chula, a long-haired brown cat, watches the many birds that visit several feeders. The house itself, with additions built by the previous owner, flows into upper and lower levels. Upstairs are rich wooden cabinets with glass doors, where over a dozen violins are displayed in rows, awaiting attention from Fritz. There are harpsichords and an organ, as well. Downstairs is a small apartment, now used as a salon for the musical ensembles that

DATES TO REMEMBER

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Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: June 4th

We have reserved a table at Friendly's for Monday, June 4th, at 9 a.m. Please join us for a cup of coffee if you can.

Meet for Lunch: June 13th

We are reserving tables at the Coonamessett Inn for 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, June 13th. All members, volunteers, and guests are welcome. Please call the office to reserve a seat and enjoy lunch with old and new friends.

NF Board Meeting: June 21st

The May Board Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 21st, at Highfield Hall.

REMINDER

Members: Please call at least 72 hours (three business days) in advance if you need a ride for an appointment. It's very hard to reach volunteers on weekends, so please call during our regular office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Upcoming Events at the Senior Center

Health Fair: Sponsored by the Falmouth Council on Aging and the Town of Falmouth through the VNA of Cape Cod, a Health Fair will be held on Monday, June 4th, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Falmouth Senior Center. A variety of screenings and health educational materials will be offered.

Singing: Join Judy at the piano at the Falmouth Senior Center on Monday, June 18th, from 1 to 2 p.m. It's just for fun and no experience is necessary. Light refreshments will be available. Donation is \$1.00.

gather several evenings each week to share chamber music. One recent week, Laura expected a trumpet player from the Falmouth Chamber Players to join the Wednesday evening group (two cellos, a double bass, two violins, and two violas) for some sight-reading, while that Friday she and Fritz planned to cohost and join a string quartet that includes a 92-year-old cellist and a viola player in his mid 80's.

The year 2012 has been a marvelous one for Laura, and it is not yet half over. She is delighted to have been hired as Neighborhood Falmouth's part-time Volunteer Coordinator, and she declares that new husband Fritz is "a perfect match" for her. Twinkling, she asked, "Would you like to hear about how we got married?" On her birthday in late December, Fritz gave her a card, which read, "I love you—let's get married NOW!" Although they come from different religious backgrounds, Laura wanted David Calhoun, minister of the John Wesley United Methodist Church, where the Falmouth Chamber Players rehearse, to preside at their nuptials. The minister was not available for a month, and the couple agreed to wait. Friends from Connecticut insisted on driving in for the otherwise private event. They arrived, and Laura and Fritz were married on Falmouth's only snow day of the entire winter.

Laura began working with Neighborhood Falmouth on May 14. She looks forward to applying her background in administration, which included complex scheduling, to matching volunteers with requests from members and to keeping the NF statistics up to date. She likes the job's flexible hours and the opportunity to work at home while feeling useful to the community. Neighborhood Falmouth is fortunate to have found Laura Sonnichsen, a friendly and enthusiastic contributor to its mission of helping Falmouth seniors to remain safely and comfortably in their own homes.

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

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