

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2011 We could use your help---

On November 12th, Saturday morning, 10:30 to noon, at the Cape Verdean Club, 126 Sandwich Road, we are hosting a public conversation led by Troy Clarkson: "Is Neighborhood Falmouth for You? Or Your Parents?" The panel helping Troy lead the discussion includes Vicky Cullen, Scoba Rhodes, Margaret Gifford, Susan Shephard, Redwood Wright, and Paulette Loomis.

If you have friends and neighbors you think would/should be interested in joining or volunteering, please invite them, and come yourself! We think people have many questions: Why join now? Why NF, what about other agencies, like the senior center? Can I afford it? Why should I support NF? The more of us who are already involved come to this meeting, the better the information sharing will be.

At the November 5th membership-volunteer lunch (a busy month for NF!), we'll have printed invitation post cards you can send if you like. And there is an email you can forward.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the luncheon, and at the November 12 "conversation"--- As always, we can help you with a ride, just call.

Kay Paine, Membership Chair

OTHER NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

NF Fall Gathering: Saturday, November 5th

NF Potluck Luncheon and entertainment for members, volunteers, and guests will be held at 12:00, in Fellowship Hall, at 1st Congregational Church on the Green. Please bring a hot or cold side dish; NF is providing a ham, desserts and beverages. Call the office to RSVP or for a ride.

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: November 7th

We have reserved a table at the Falmouth Grille (formerly Hearth and Kettle) for Monday, November 7th, at 9 a.m. Please join us if you can.

NF Book Club: November 10th

NF Book Club will meet at 2:30, Thursday, November 10th. The book selection is *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson. Please join us. If you're interested, call the NF office for location.

Meet for Lunch: November 16th

We are reserving tables at the Coonamessett Inn for 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, November 16th. Please call the office to reserve a seat. If you find you can attend at the last minute, just come. We'll simply add another chair.



Al Allenby, NF Volunteer
by Mavise Crocker

For all of his life, Al Allenby has lived in a very church- and education-oriented world. As his father was a Congregational Minister, it was not unusual that the family would be moving among different parishes, always in the New England area. At one point, however, when Al was a young boy, they lived in Scotland for almost a year while his father was studying for his Ph.D. in divinity.

But, wherever they were located, the family always managed to spend their summer vacations in Falmouth where they had a modest cottage on Oyster Pond. Al and his three brothers and a sister considered Cape Cod their true home, no matter where they were temporarily living. Here they spent the carefree summer days of their childhood near the salt marshes, close to the ocean.

Al spent his four high school years at Phillips Andover Academy. As World War II was approaching, he enlisted in the V-12 Navy program at the Academy, and later in the ROTC program at Yale. After the War, Al enrolled in the Yale Divinity School. However, in September of 1949 a family tragedy occurred which was to significantly affect the rest of his life.

September is one of the loveliest times of year on the Cape, when the ocean is warm and the days are still summer-like. The Allenby family decided to rent a 38-foot cabin cruiser, together with its captain, and spend the day visiting Nantucket. As they were returning to Falmouth in the late afternoon, a squall suddenly came up, with rough seas which swamped the boat and knocked out the boat engine.

In a very short time the entire boat was swamped, and the eleven passengers were in the water. Night was approaching; sixty-two years ago there were few emergency search and rescue teams available. Eighteen hours later, by eleven o'clock in the morning, only Al and the boat's captain were still alive. Lost were his father and mother, a brother, his sister and her husband, and four friends. His other two brothers had not been with the party that day.

Thus, at the age of 23, Al suddenly became the head of his family, responsible for getting them all through school. His brother, Gilbert, returned to Germany to his duties in the U.S. Air Force. The youngest brother, Norman, finished Phillips Academy and entered Yale, while Al completed Yale Divinity School. It is amazing how the three boys got through the next seven or eight years and reached maturity. In speaking of it, Al said that he realized there was nothing he could do to change anything, so the work he had to do helped him get on with his life. Although the accident has had and continues to have a major impact on his life and has become a part of whom he is, Al seems to

have found the resilience and inner strength to put it in perspective.

As he entered the working world, Al was fortunate to secure a position as full-time chaplain at the Loomis School in Windsor, Connecticut, where he taught an ethics course and coached football and wrestling. Two years later he transferred to Denver where he was assistant minister at a large Congregational church. Now married to Nancy Munson, they spent five happy years there.

The urge to return to New England was strong, however, so it was that he accepted a call to become the minister of South Congregational Church in Braintree. Three years later, he accepted an offer to join the faculty at the Mt. Hermon School in Western Massachusetts. Here he taught religion and served as a college counselor.

For fifteen years Al and Nancy brought up their family of five children in this bucolic farmland setting. Later, when the children were grown, he served for ten years as Dean of Students and head of the Upper School at King School in Stamford, Connecticut. Thus, throughout his life Al's career has been a mix of education, the ministry, and working with young people.

When his retirement time approached, they decided to return to Falmouth where his daughter was living. Where would they settle? It seemed natural for him to return to the summer cottage that his family had owned for so many years, and which was then renovated to become a year-round home.

Although Nancy has now passed away, Al continues his work for others, presiding occasionally at weddings at the First Congregational Church and serving as one of their honorary ministers and as Editor of the church newsletter. As for Neighborhood Falmouth, Al is one of our most valued volunteers.

Next NF Board Meeting: November 17th

NF Board of Directors will meet at 2:30, Thursday, November 17th, in the Boardroom at Falmouth Hospital.