

November 2013

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FALMOUTH CHAMBER PLAYERS

The Falmouth Chamber Players (Laura and Fritz's orchestra) is presenting a concert on Saturday, Nov. 16th, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 17th, at 3:00 p.m. at Falmouth Academy. Music includes Vivaldi, Townsend, Holst and Haydn. Suggested donation is \$20. Call Fritz Sonnichsen, 508-274-2632, for more information.

JOY AROUND THE WORLD

The Falmouth Chorale is extending a very special offer for members of NF only. Tickets for their December Holiday Concert will be \$15 per person for NF members instead of \$25. The concerts will be Sat. Dec. 14th, at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., and Sun. Dec. 15th, 3:00 p.m., at First Congregational Church. The concert will celebrate music from diverse cultures, including Germany, England, Spain, Scandinavia, Latin America and Israel. Phil Lima (baritone) is the featured soloist. **Please call the NF office by Dec. 2nd** to reserve your ticket. This is a **firm** deadline for the NF discounted price. All tickets must be prepaid; we will let you know where to send your check. Arrangements will be made for you to pick up your tickets at the door. Please let Ken and Karin know if you will need a ride when you reserve your ticket.

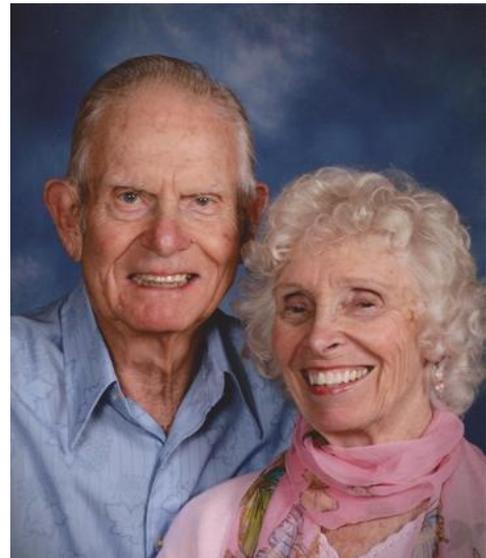
FALMOUTH HOLIDAY PARADE

NF invites members, volunteers, and friends to join us in a walking unit to promote Neighborhood Falmouth in the December 8th Holiday Parade. Please call the office if you can join us!

DIRECTORS ATTENDING CONFERENCE

Ken and Karin will be out of the office for a few days attending the Annual Village Conference in St. Louis. Laura will be answering the phone

beginning Friday, November 8th through Wednesday, November 13th.



Pat and Bob Dinsmore
Members and Volunteers

By Pamela Nelson

Behind the Scenes with the Dinsmores

Pat and Bob Dinsmore, charter members of Neighborhood Falmouth, recall being asked to get involved in the new organization almost five years ago, at its outset. They were recruited by Vicky Cullen and Red Wright. Says Pat, her voice mellow, "How could you say no?"

Bob and Pat have also been committed volunteers from NF's earliest days, both of them acting as drivers. Pat regularly picked up one member who needed assistance with her grocery shopping. Bob still provides rides to members two or three times each week. Pat, however, has been

sidelined by a shoulder injury, for which she has just had surgery, so has had to stop driving. She says she has a chronic, wear-and-tear shoulder injury, but Bob teasingly attributes the problem to her killer overhand tennis serve. He claims that he was never a match for his wife in tennis, and—a 1946 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy in New London—asserts that sailing was always his sport.

Pat was born in Cleveland, but in summers she and her brother went with their parents to the family cottage in Madison, Ohio, on Lake Erie. Her father, an electrical engineer, commuted daily to work in Cleveland. Although she missed her friends at home, she played tennis in Madison, and remembers with deep affection the cottage, an important family gathering place for 65 years. Even after enrolling at Connecticut College, she summered there with her family. One evening in 1945 she attended a dance on the Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* when it put into port. As she reached the top of the ladder to board the cutter, the ship's captain pushed one of his cadets, Bob Dinsmore, toward Pat, who was an attractive blond, saying, "You take her." Bob proceeded, he says, "to tell her how great I was and everything that I was doing." When he found out as they danced and chatted that she was a student at Connecticut College, located "across the street from the Coast Guard Academy," he realized she had probably seen right through his bragging. Nevertheless, they stayed in touch, and after her return to New London, their friendship became a romance, which led to their marriage in 1947.

Bob Dinsmore was born in Baltimore, an only child. His father, a retired army officer, traveled extensively for his business. During school years when his parents were on the road, Bob stayed in Baltimore with his two stand-in mothers, an aunt and a great-aunt. But when school was out, he traveled with his parents to New England, New York, Florida, California, and Arkansas. His father worked at a unique job, for the American Totalizator Company, which Bob describes as a forerunner of today's computer manufacturers. The equipment, which his father traveled to install, check, and maintain, was used at race tracks to determine the odds for betting, and for a time Bob's father ran the business end of all the big race tracks in the country.

After graduating from high school at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, Bob entered the Coast Guard Academy in 1943. At one point during WWII, he completed the Marine Corp's Platoon Leaders' School, earning a temporary rank of second lieutenant—not realizing at the time that there was an 80% casualty rate among platoon leaders. However, the war ended before he went on active duty, and he returned to the Coast Guard Academy, where he completed his training in 1946. During his long career in the Coast Guard, Bob would earn many honors, including the Coast Guard Medal "for heroism at the risk of life on 8 April 1966, while serving on board the [cutter] *Cook Inlet*, when he boarded the burning and abandoned Norwegian passenger vessel *Viking Princess* to search for 40 missing survivors."

Over Bob's 30 years in the Coast Guard, he and Pat led a peripatetic domestic life, setting up households in 17 different locations after his graduation. Offered the possibility of pursuing graduate training by the Coast Guard in 1950, with choices in such fields as law and engineering, Bob picked oceanography. It was a brilliant choice for him, but his reasons for his decision were rather peculiar. He knew he would be studying at Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla. Of the various places his parents had lived, his mother had a special fondness for La Jolla, where his father had managed Bing Crosby's racetrack. Although Bob had never even visited his parents there, he chose oceanography as his future field because his mother had given La Jolla such rave reviews!

Continued on next page

DATES TO REMEMBER

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: November 4th

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 4th, at Friendly's for a cup of coffee and/or breakfast. Please join us. It's a great way to begin the week!

NF Book Group: November 19th

We will be meeting at 2:30 on Tuesday, November 19th, to discuss *Dear Life* by Alice Munro. If you like to read or listen to books, please join us by calling the NF office for the location.

Meet for Lunch: November 20th

In response to several requests, we are trying a few other restaurants in town for Meet for Lunch. On Wednesday, November 20th, 11:45 a.m., we will meet at the Peking Palace, 452 Main St. All members, volunteers, and guests are welcome. They offer a luncheon buffet or you may order from the menu. Individual checks will be provided. Please call the office to reserve a place.

NF Board Meeting: November 21st

NF Board of Directors will be meeting at 2:00 on Thursday, November 21st, at Highfield Hall.

FREE !

One of our members has a Morris Chair, mid-century modern, with two blue-grey pillows. It is in very good condition and comfortable even for a large person. If you are interested, please call 508-548-0855; leave a message if there is no answer.

Dinsmores continued

It was at Scripps that Bob became involved with the International Ice Patrol, formed after the sinking of the *Titanic* to search for icebergs and report the findings to ships at sea. Says Bob, "The prediction of the drift of icebergs is oceanography itself!" Bob and Pat first came to the home base of the International Ice Patrol in Woods Hole in 1951, after he completed his graduate work at Scripps. He became a visiting investigator at WHOI, in between sojourns in Washington, New London, and, of course, on ships in the North Atlantic. Ice patrols lasted from three to four months, and weather ship tours were typically 30 days.

Needless to say, Pat did not follow her husband when he was at sea. She was, however, plenty busy, raising five children, and moving their households to wherever Bob was currently based.

She saw to it that all five kids got to the doctor and dentist, and worried about their making friends as they moved from school to school. According to Pat, because of his work schedule, Bob would come and go. "He was the boss when he was home, and I was the boss when he was gone. It was a little tricky," she adds with a chuckle. And raising children did not always go smoothly. In fact, they almost lost the youngest child on the day of her premature birth. Fortunately, Bob was there at Tobey Hospital when the infant was born, and it was his courage and determination to face and overcome adversity that saved her life that day.

To be continued next month.

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 support from the following merchants and organizations:

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