

## Neighborhood Falmouth is Growing

NF is hosting a town-wide meeting on Saturday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, at John Wesley Methodist Church from 10 AM to noon. We want to spread the word about our valuable organization and encourage more members and volunteers to join us.

Please invite anyone you know who might be interested. We are offering a door prize of a six-month membership to a person who has never been a member before.

Our members and volunteers are priceless. We hope to increase their numbers by holding informational but fun meetings such as this one. Davien Gould, an educator and theater activist, is our moderator. Please tell everyone you see or talk to! We will build a stronger group together. The church is on the corner of Gifford Street and Jones Road.

## Members' Luncheon Oct. 27

Please also mark your calendars and join us for our annual fall potluck members' luncheon at noon on Saturday, October 27, at the Congregational Church on the village green.

## In Remembrance

We are sad to report the loss in September of two charter members of Neighborhood Falmouth. Seth Harvey died September 5<sup>th</sup> after a year-long illness. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held on Sat., Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, in Plymouth, MA. On September 15<sup>th</sup>, Dick Backus passed away while on vacation with his wife, Denise, in California. His memorial service will be held on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> in Woods Hole. Our condolences go out to Dick's and Seth's families—we hope that warm memories of these two men comfort them as they do us.



**Rebecca Moffitt, Volunteer**  
*by Mavise Crocker*

The admonitions our parents gave us all as we were growing up may fall on deaf ears at the time, but often they are unconsciously heeded. Becky Moffitt, one of our very dedicated volunteers, was given this advice by her mother many years ago:

*If you continue to get bad grades, you can continue to stay right where you are. Or you can get good grades, go to college and then do whatever you want to do and live wherever you want to live.*

Becky and her three siblings followed this advice. Why is her story so unusual? Because of the history of the town where she grew up in the 1950s. Nestled in the heart of the Appalachian coal-mining country in Ohio, adjacent to Kentucky and West Virginia, Ironton is a very poor southern evangelical town. Its inhabitants have worked for generations in the local mines as well as in the iron and steel mills.

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Basically, its inhabitants are hard-working country folk dedicated to their jobs and their families. Their knowledge of nutrition is rudimentary; many are overweight and have considerable health problems. Becky's mother saw the handwriting on the wall for her children, and they listened to her.

Becky and all her siblings earned college degrees and now live in various parts of the country—California, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Ohio. But this does not mean that they have abandoned the place where they grew up. Becky visits her hometown three or four times a year to keep in touch with family and friends.

Taught by nuns throughout her school years, after graduation Becky entered a branch of Ohio University where for two years she studied education. But Becky was born knowing how to teach—the education school of the university was simply refining her innate love of children and of imparting important knowledge to them. “I knew how to teach when I started,” she declared with a broad smile and a twinkle in her eye.

She got her first job at the age of 19 in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1959. Her specialty was first grade, working with children for whom reading opened up a whole new world. At this time in a child's education, it is crucial that the fundamentals are properly taught so that for the rest of their lives reading becomes a fluid process, not a halting, labored puzzle to be solved.

After three years, she moved on to West Bridgewater where she taught for another three years and then to the Brockton public schools where she taught for 30 years until her retirement in 2002. In 1965, she married Richard Moffitt, always known as “Mo,” who worked for HUD—the Housing and Urban Development Commission—in the D.C. area before he was transferred to Boston.

Although she had taught for many years, the Brockton administrators suddenly discovered that Becky had a two-year rather than a four-year college degree. Her two years at Ohio University were simply not enough. So, while still teaching, she went to Bridgewater State College to obtain her college diploma—in order to make her a bona fide teacher!

During her teaching career Becky was always involved in school administrative affairs. She was

president of the teachers' union, The Brockton Education Association, and also was busy in community affairs. Because of her love of music and because she had played the piano since childhood, she was also involved with the Brockton Symphony Orchestra and was chairman of their Women's Guild for eighteen years. This organization is in charge of all fund-raising activities for the orchestra's five annual concerts, which are frequently sold out.

But with all these local extracurricular activities, one of Becky's main interests remained in the world of travel. Perhaps it was because her family took a trip to Minnesota each summer to visit her mother's relatives that Becky learned that travel is not only fun but also an enlightened way to enjoy history.

Early in her teaching career she spent school vacations in travel, but not with her husband, Mo. She doesn't mind at all taking tours by herself. In fact, with her friendly, outgoing personality she quickly makes friends and enjoys the company of new people. Last summer, she drove a friend she'd recently met to New York City for a family visit while she herself visited friends—just because she loves to drive and a five-hour trip seemed to her like a great opportunity to enjoy a new friend. This is so typical of Becky's joie de vivre and joyful outreach to people.

Becky's two daughters seem to follow in their mother's footsteps. Daughter Monica is a fourth grade teacher in Hingham and daughter Shannon works in human resources at Hasbro Toys in Rhode Island. They echo Becky's involvement with children and the love of teaching. Monica and Shannon have often traveled with their mother, especially to Ireland.

Becky's European travels have taken her not only to Ireland but also to Austria, Italy, Spain, France, England, and Scotland. Perhaps her favorite vacations have been to fulfill her love of kayaking, including both canoeing and kayaking down the Missouri River, starting from Montana, and once kayaking among the St. Juan Islands off Seattle, Washington.

Another interesting voyage was by freighter across the Atlantic from Italy to New York with only five passengers aboard. The voyage took two weeks, and she claims that not for a moment was she

bored. They had delicious meals and the passengers found great company in each other.

For the past 20 years, Becky has taken two major trips a year with five other teachers from Brockton. At Christmas time they travel to various areas in New England, and during the summer they travel farther afield across the country, always in a large van that accommodates the six of them. Their next trip will be to explore the Hudson River area from West Point down to New York City sometime in December.

Their summer trip has not yet been decided, but they think it might be to one of the National Parks—perhaps in a state they haven't yet visited. But a dream trip for Becky would be to go to one of the poles, preferably south to Antarctica to see those beautiful glaciers before they diminish further and perhaps disappear.

Keep dreaming, Becky, and bon voyage!

### Upcoming Senior Center Events

**Open Enrollment Presentation:** Medicare's Open Enrollment period is Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> through Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> for 2013 plan choices. The Cape & Islands Regional SHINE program is offering a presentation for Medicare beneficiaries, providers, and family members at the Sr. Center on Monday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM. Handouts will be available. Please register in advance by calling 508-540-0196.

**Safety Refresher Course:** Monday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost per student including workbook, video, and no test is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. For the month of November, regardless of age, this program will be FREE to all retired and active military service members, veterans, their spouses, widows, or widowers. Call the Sr. Center 508-540-0196 to reserve a space or for more information. Please bring your own snack or lunch. The classes will be held at Gus Canty Recreation Building.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Please join us at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 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: October 24<sup>th</sup>

Our monthly luncheon at Coonamessett Inn will be on Wednesday, Oct. 24<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.

#### NF Board Meeting: October 18<sup>th</sup>

The next Board Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, at Highfield Hall.

#### "Safety for Seniors" Program: November 6<sup>th</sup>

This will be the first of a lecture series sponsored by the NF program committee. Janney Montgomery Scott will provide the presenters for this event, which will be held at St. Anthony's Catholic Church at 2:00 PM.

We gratefully acknowledge support from the following merchants:

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