



Newsletter

July 2011

Office Phone: 508-564-7543

DATES TO REMEMBER

Next NF Board Meeting: July 21st

NF Board of Directors will meet at 2:00, Thursday, July 21st in the Falmouth Academy library. Please enter through the main doors; someone will be there to direct you to the library.

Meet for Lunch: July 27th

We are reserving tables at the Coonamessett Inn for 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, July 27th. 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.

NF WEB SITE

Recently, we launched a new NF Web site. If you'd like to check it out, Ctrl+Click to link to <http://neighborhoodfalmouth.org>

THE REAL SOCIAL NETWORK

There was an article in the AARP Magazine for May/June 2011 describing the "village movement" across the U.S. If you missed the printed article, you can read it on line; Ctrl+Click to link to http://pubs.aarp.org/aarptm/20110506_PR?folio=56#pg62

NF/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.



Mavise Crocker, NF Member

Through a series of untoward circumstances, the people we had hoped to interview this month were not available. As the first of July approached I began to panic, wondering how the deadline could ever be met. In sheer desperation I decided there was only one solution: I would have to interview myself—so I hope you will bear with me as I ask and answer the following questions.

What kind of a childhood did you have? My earliest memory is a trip to Switzerland when I was three. This was my mother's homeland, and she was taking two of her three children back home for a visit. My first day there I was introduced to a little girl in a beautiful red velvet dress, whom I promptly gave a swift kick in the shins. I was immediately sent to bed without any dinner, and put up such a screaming and wailing that first my brother, then my mother had to come up to keep me quiet. *Motto*: Cultivate good friends.

What were your parents like? They were extremely different from each other, and each influenced me

greatly as I was growing up. Mother was a rather dour Swiss-German, very proper and formal. However, through her actions and words she taught me the meaning of the word “integrity.” Her values were unimpeachable; honesty and uprightness were the foundation of her life. *Motto:* Honesty is the best policy.

Mother was full of Swiss aphorisms which she used judiciously, since she herself was learning to speak the English language. One of her favorites was: “Mit gegungen, mit gefungen, mit gehungen” (my own spelling). In advising us to choose our friends wisely, she was saying, “The people you go around with are the people you’re found with, and they’re the people you’re caught with”—strong stuff for young kids. *Motto:* Be sure you associate with the right people.

My Dad was just the opposite: upbeat, happy-go-lucky, optimistic. He lost his job in the Great Depression and never found another one. He let Mother do all the worrying while he began to invent things—crazy things at first, like a glass ping pong table—but finally something caught fire. He began its manufacture and ultimately it gave them a comfortable living for the rest of their lives. Dad, too, was full of mottos. A typical one was “Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you weep alone.” *Motto:* Don’t cry over spilt milk.

What kind of an education did you have? I attended Newton (MA) High School when it was considered one of the ten best high schools in the country. As a junior I received early admission to Barnard College in New York City, with a four-year full-tuition scholarship. Mother was ecstatic, as she and Dad had very little education. *Motto:* Education is vital.

But her joy was short-lived, for when I was a sophomore, in 1941, the U.S. entered World War II, and I threw everything over—scholarship, education and all—to marry the boy I had loved for four years. Unless you had lived through the terrible uncertainties of the war years, you would never understand the enormous incentive to marry before your loved one went off—perhaps to die—to a war that was engulfing the world. Nothing else mattered. *Motto:* Follow your heart.

Like my Dad, I think I was basically a risk-taker. My marriage turned out to be a happy choice. It has lasted for 70 years. Also, I had planned to major in sociology, which would have been a disaster. Four years after the war I graduated from Harvard while my husband was here also, getting his architectural degree on the G.I. Bill. My major then was English, which I later used in my career. *Motto:* Choose your life path carefully.

What was your career? I think my main career in life was trying to keep one foot in the Victorian/Edwardian era where I was brought up, and the other in the socially turbulent late 1960s, where my three daughters were. It was a true revolution, and I belonged to neither era. Realizing I would have to help put the girls through college, I enrolled for a graduate degree in English at Columbia University—a risky move, for all my friends and acquaintances were stay-at-home moms. *Motto:* Keep up with the times.

My field was TESL—Teaching English as a Second Language—and upon graduation the perfect job was waiting for me, right in my home town in Connecticut. I was told I could do my practice teaching there, but no job would be open as there were no foreign students. *Motto:* Don’t believe everything you’re told.

A little research proved the situation to be a whole different story: there were over 100 students who did not speak English at home—Polish, Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, French, German—in all, over 14 languages were spoken in hidden homes throughout the town. My job was to coalesce the students, the teachers and one volunteer for each student into a new TESL Department, grades K through 12—a huge challenge but another risk that was worth taking. *Motto:* Do thorough research.

What have you done in retirement? We left our jobs in Connecticut to retire to the Cape, Paul to free-lance in architecture and I to volunteer with the Samaritans on Cape Cod and the Islands for twelve years, serving as the Director for two. In recent years, it has been my joy to work with Neighborhood Falmouth, to see it filling the needs of older residents in our town. *Motto:* Volunteering is important.