

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' VACATION

Ken and Karin will be on vacation beginning on September 15th and returning on October 1st. Some of the Board members will be filling in and working with Phylisanne to assist you during this time. The NF office number (508-564-7543) will continue to be your contact number during this time.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NF Book Club: September 8th

NF Book Club will meet at 2:30, Thursday, September 8th. The book selection is *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World* by Michael Pollan. Please join us if you're interested; call the NF office for location.

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee: September 12th

We have reserved a table at the Falmouth Grille (formerly Hearth and Kettle) for Monday, September 12th, at 9 a.m. This group hasn't met during the summer, so please join us if you can.

Next NF Board Meeting: September 15th

NF Board of Directors will meet at 2:30, Thursday, September 15th, in the Boardroom at Falmouth Hospital.

Meet for Lunch: October 19th

Since Ken and Karin will be on vacation in Sept., the next "M-f-L" will be in Oct. However, if you'd like to get together for lunch this month, please make arrangements among yourselves. Feel free to call the office for member phone numbers.



Catherine Norton, NF Member and NF Board

If you were to call Cathy Norton, she might answer, "Hello?" or you might hear her say, "Justice of the Peace." Either way you'd be reaching the same person. Cathy is living proof that one's job or career does not necessarily define the whole person that you are.

As director of the MBLWHOI Library from 1994 to 2011, Cathy pulled this world-renown library into the digital age and kept it on the cutting edge of current technology. At the same time, she shared her expertise locally and was a prime mover in organizing the CLAMS (Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing) system that connects some 35 Cape and islands libraries. Another major career accomplishment was being a prime mover in organizing a network called the Biodiversity Heritage Libraries (BHL) to digitize and make more accessible historic biodiversity data and information. Having retired recently as library director, she continues part time at MBL as Library Scholar, employing her well-known skills at grant writing.

These days, a conversation with Cathy is mostly likely to emphasize the fun part of her life as a Justice of the Peace who has officiated at sometimes 100 weddings a year. For people who do not want

a religious wedding, for people who need a hurried ceremony, for people who have invented an unorthodox way to be married, for people who are marrying a partner of a different faith or color, or for people who just want to save the cost of an expensive wedding—having a Justice of the Peace marry them can be just the right solution.

There are, of course, other official duties for JPs. They can swear people into office; they can call official meetings; or they can call out the militia to quell a riot. These Cathy has not been required to do. But she does officiate at many weddings, some of which have been more than memorable.

For instance, there was a time during a hurricane when the wedding party was ready and waiting but the minister did not show up. A frantic call was made to Cathy for an immediate ceremony. She told them she was not properly dressed – she was, in fact in shorts, boots, and a T shirt, but they told her to come as she was. On arrival, she found the entire party dressed in colorful, exotic costumes, an ethnic wedding from Haiti, while she was not even wearing her black robe!

Another time a couple arranged to come to her home. She opened the door to see the bride, nine plus months pregnant, ready for delivery, whose water broke as she stood on the doorstep. Immediately after a quick ceremony, they left for the hospital, where she delivered twins.

And still another unique wedding was held during a summer sizzler when the temperature had reached 100. This time Cathy was prepared, with her little black book, her long black robe...only to be met by the best man dressed in the briefest of swim trunks and a black tie around his neck. In fact the entire bridal party wore bikinis, the bride in a beautifully crocheted white one with an enormous-brimmed white hat. As soon as the "I Dos" were pronounced, they all jumped into the swimming pool.

Cathy Norton has also had other interesting 9–5 jobs. Before she took up her library career at MBL in 1980, she was a caterer, eventually running her own business for six years. Along the way, she also served as chair of the Falmouth School Committee for several years.

Cathy has had a busy business life, traveling extensively worldwide to lecture on BHL and other library topics. Her basic education at Regis College in Wellesley, where she majored in psychology and biology, gave her a good base for her biological library career. Later, at Simmons College, she earned her M.A. in Library and Information Sciences, which was exactly the background she needed for her innovative library work.

Despite her amazingly diverse careers, Cathy considers them fringe benefits. She says that what matters most in her life are her four children and her many close friends. Her joyous demeanor, her constant laughter, and her upbeat attitude are certainly proof of a happy life.

ART APPRECIATION CLASS

Susan Pennington will offer a class on Edgar Degas at the Conservatory on Tuesdays, Sept. 13 to Nov. 1, from 1-3 p.m. (\$65). It will coincide with the MFA Degas exhibit which opens Oct. 9. Ms. Pennington has an M.A. in Art History. She was the first secretary of NF and several members of NF have been long-time participants in her classes. For further information, please call Cape Cod Conservatory (508-540-0611) or contact her directly via email, s_pennington@comcast.net.

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.