

NEIGHBORHOOD FALMOUTH

Meeting Seniors' Needs

Newsletter – December 2010

Office Phone: 508-564-7543

Fall Membership Campaign

Since our September 11 kick-off at St. Anthony's Church we've welcomed 11 new members, for a current total of 88 members in all. Our goal was to have 100 members by January 1st.

Don't forget, if someone joins thanks to your invitation, you will get a \$200 deduction from your next year's dues. And, of course, the new member also saves if they join this year, with a \$200 first-year deduction for single membership, \$300 for double.

We hope you are enjoying the benefits of belonging to Neighborhood Falmouth: peace of mind and help when you need it. Tell your friends—they'll be glad you did.

Third NF Lecture

December 7th – "*The Older and Wiser Driver*" – 10 a.m. in the Atria Woodbriar conference room. These events are open to the public. Reservations are requested to insure sufficient seating (call the NF office 508-564-7543), but last-minute attendees will be welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Meet for Coffee/Breakfast

We hope to see you at the Falmouth Grille (previously Hearth and Kettle) at 9:00 a.m., Monday, December 6th, for breakfast or a cup of coffee. It's a nice way to begin the week, so please come and join us.

Meet for Lunch

We have reserved tables at the Cooname-sett Inn for 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, December 15th. Please call the office to reserve a seat or, if you find you can attend at the last minute, just come. We'll simply add another chair.

NF Book Club

Next meeting of the NF Book Club will be on Thursday, January 13th, 2:30 p.m. in the home of Winifred Liles. We will be discussing "*The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*" by David Wroblewski. New members are welcome.



**Wesley Ko, Member
Neighborhood Falmouth**
By Mavise Crocker

There are few left of what has been called The Greatest Generation – those who were teenagers, or barely in their 20s, when World War II broke out over seventy years ago. That was not a war of choice, as wars since then have been called. It was unquestionably a war of necessity, and not many of those who fought are left to talk about it.

One of Neighborhood Falmouth's members, Wesley Ko, survived 289 days of combat in Europe. His tour of duty lasted over two years without a break, without rotation, in a war that was fought until it was literally won. No one questioned the rightness of this War. There were few conscientious objectors, and few who were physically unable to serve. It was a totally united war effort.

In an interview with Wesley, the memories of his wartime service are as sharp and

clear as though it happened yesterday. Like thousands of other young men he was drafted to serve in the Army – in the 82nd Airborne Division. He was part of the 326th Glider Division, which was always in the forefront of the fighting.

Unlike paratroopers who jumped from the planes, landed in scattered formation over a wide area, then had to reconnoiter to form back into their unit, the gliders were towed by a C-47, thirteen men to a plane. They were cut loose and landed, sometimes behind enemy lines. While the tow plane flew on, glider troops were left to combat the enemy on their own.

It was a miracle that Wesley survived as many drops as he did. He started out in Algeria in North Africa. As each area was won from the enemy, his division moved on, first to Sicily, then to Salerno and Naples.

Since Hitler had now overrun most of Europe, the Glider Division moved by boat to Scotland, then to Ireland and finally to England where Ko's division trained for the Normandy Invasion of June 1944. They landed six or seven miles inland from the beachhead at the French town of St. Mere Eglise.

By September of 1944, Ko's Glider Division was in Holland, creating a 150-mile long, one-mile wide corridor so the British could have access to Arnheim. By December of that year, they were at the Siegfried Line in Germany, fighting the Battle of the Bulge. It was a rugged winter for all the Allied troops, but by spring of 1945 Hitler's army had collapsed.

Because of his long tour of duty during the war and the many medals he had won, Ko was among the first servicemen to return to the States. He embarked in July of 1945 from Marseilles, a true hero in a war that had to be won.

Wesley was born in Pennsylvania of Chinese parents. His father served as a Me-

thodist-Episcopal minister in America, as did his grandfather also. After the war, Ko and his brother resumed ownership of the print shop they had already established, enlarging it to include silk screening. By that time, printed circuits were in wide use and were incorporated into their work.

Over the years, Wesley and his wife Ruth had three children; his family now includes six grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Despite becoming absorbed in the typical American life, Ko has kept in close touch with his war buddies who were such an integral part of his formative years.

When asked what he took away from his war experiences that meant the most to him in his future life, Wesley replied, "I learned to be self-sufficient and have the initiative to make quick decisions on the spur of the moment." We at Neighborhood Falmouth are grateful to have among our members those whose wartime service has so clearly benefited our country.

Couple of Tidbits - - -

Falmouth Chorale is offering a group rate to members of NF for tickets to the upcoming Christmas concerts, Saturday, December 11th (4 p.m. and 8 p.m.) and Sunday, December 12th (3 p.m.) at 1st Congregational Church. If there are ten or more who would like to attend, we can get a discounted rate. Note: All ten people must attend the same concert to receive this discount. If you are interested, please call the office as soon as possible.

Is there interest in having us organize **visits to Cape art venues**? What about **card groups, Chess or Scrabble**? Please let us hear your comments.

**Best Wishes
For a
Happy Holiday Season!**