

NEIGHBORHOOD
FALMOUTH
Meeting Seniors' Needs

Newsletter – January 2011

Office Phone: 508-564-7543

NF Gathering on January 29th

Members, volunteers, Board and Advisory Council are invited to attend a Luncheon on Saturday, January 29th, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, on the Green. This will be a social event as well as an opportunity to acknowledge all the support we receive from our committed volunteers. **Please RSVP to the NF office (508-564-7543) if you plan to attend.** Guests are welcome. Transportation can be provided if needed.

There is no charge for the luncheon, so please join us for homemade soups and warm breads with old and new friends. Help would be welcome from anyone who may be willing to bring a dessert. Please call the office to let us know.

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee

We have reserved tables at the Falmouth Grille (formerly Hearth and Kettle) for Monday, January 10th at 9 a.m. Please join us if you can – it's a great way to begin the week.

Meet for Lunch

We have reserved tables at the Coonamessett Inn for 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, January 19th. 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.



**Winifred Liles, Member
Neighborhood Falmouth**
By Mavise Crocker

When you walk into Win Liles' home, it is like walking into a miniature art gallery. Walls are covered with small white-line woodcuts, paintings and a few artistic photographs; most of them created by Win herself. She has been painting since the age of six, and now in her late eighties the urge is still with her. Even when she was teaching, she was constantly involved with her art.

No ultra modernist, Win works in her own style, acutely tuned to color and light. Her themes are often taken from nature: beach dunes, birds, turtles, a winter snow scene, a red fox, trees and

flowers, and even a mythical dragon. When I asked what one of her favorites was, she pointed to a small woodcut of...a toad! When she sees a scene or animal that strikes her imagination, she mentally records it for a future art work – sometimes a water color, but chiefly white-line woodcuts.

This is how they are done: first comes the drawing, which is then reversed and cut onto a special wood block – though she says she has tried other mediums, including once a potato! Meticulously cutting the scene into the wood, she leaves open the parts that will not be painted, and which will show up as white on the finished print. This is why they are called white-line woodcuts.

The scene is then painted directly on the wood block in the various colors she chooses and then pressed onto the paper. This means that each woodcut print is slightly different, as each is individually hand-crafted. The final touch is to affix her “chop” onto the finished work. This is a Chinese artistic custom, a tiny half-inch block-print signature with a special meaning to the artist -- such as “serenity” or whatever attribute the artist wishes to express.

Win has come by her gift quite naturally. Although her father was a civil engineer, his hobby was working in the field of arts and crafts. She has in her home several of his beautifully modeled metal desk lamps. Her mother was a teacher, which Win originally declared she never wanted to be, and yet she had a teaching career herself for 23 years.

Some of her five children reflect Win’s lifelong gift for painting and woodcuts; her walls are filled with their work also.

One of her daughters is an accomplished artist, and a teenage grandson shows an early talent for creating woodcuts. His work is prominently on display along with her own.

She encourages her grandchildren to learn the value of the fine arts and recently sent a copy of Durer’s famous Rabbit woodcut to one of her youngest. When you have a talent that is an all-consuming force in your life, it is rewarding, if not essential, to have those you love understand this compelling drive and share it with you.

Although born in New York, Win has lived or taught in Nantucket, Scarsdale and Monroe, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan. A graduate of Bucknell College, she is largely self-taught and constantly experimenting. She now lives with her talkative and affectionate cat Chang, in her small Cape house, surrounded outdoors by wetlands and indoors by her own personal art gallery that represents the life of a consummate artist.

Suggestions?

We are happy to add more social events (monthly or occasionally) to the NF calendar. Is there interest in having us organize **visits to Cape art venues?** What about **card groups, Chess or Scrabble?** Would **WWII or Korean War Vets** like to meet occasionally? Please let us hear your comments.

Reminder: *NF Board meeting will be on Thursday, January 20th at 2 p.m. in the Falmouth Hospital Board Room.*