

FALMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Proposed Board Members – January 2023

Michael Kasparian

Michael served on the FHS Board before the addition of the Cultural Center and renovation of Conant House; he is looking forward to being part of the restoration of Wicks House (in his words: “our finest asset”) and strengthening our collections. He has a lifelong interest in American furniture, decorative arts and architecture from the Colonial and Federal periods. He has a Certificate in Arts & Antique Appraisal from the Rhode Island School of Design, and works as a personal property appraiser focusing on arts and antiques. His formal degrees are from Rhode Island College (BA) and Bryant College (MBA). He and his family have been residents of Falmouth since 2005. In addition to being a Town Meeting Member, he serves on several non-profit advisory boards. His current position as President of the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce has put him in touch with businesses, non-profits and individuals across our community. Up for new three-year term.

Rocco Maffei

Rocco’s career began with serving 5 years as active duty with United States Air Force and 30 years in the USAF Reserves, retiring in 2005 as a Colonel. With degrees from Trinity College (BA) and University of Maine Law School (JD), he pursued a legal career in corporate positions. When he retired in 2011, he began volunteering at the Museums, working in almost every possible capacity: school docent, house docent, prior Board member including past President and participant in events as disparate as Night Watchman, Katharine Lee Bates Poetry Fest, readings for July 4th and Teddy Bear Picnic. He spearheaded a 2015 dinner honoring 25 WWII Falmouth veterans. Rocco enjoys interacting with the public while telling the stories of Falmouth. Other local non-profits that he has volunteered for are Old Stone Dock and Friends of Nobska Light. Rejoined FHS Board, August 2022, up for full three-year term.

Carolyn Partan

Carolyn retired in 1999 from working as a real estate attorney in Boston and has been an active volunteer for FHS ever since. Like many others, she has taken on multiple roles. She revived and expanded the third grade program plus participated in other school collaborations. She has worked on fundraising, including as co-chair of the 2016 renovations of Conant House. Other positions she has held include Interim Executive Director (2000-2001), Secretary of the Board (2000-2006) and most recently as President (June 2022 – present). She has done extensive research on Falmouth’s whaling history, among other topics. For the new Falmouth Art Center, Carolyn was a key person in its building and fundraising. Prior to moving year-around to Falmouth, she served on the Massport Board by gubernatorial appointment. Wellesley College (BA) and NYU School of Law (JD). Rejoined Board May 2022, will serve one more year, if elected.

Robert G. Ripley, Jr.

Bob has retired from a career as a senior bank and wealth management executive with extensive banking, finance, audit, investment and strategic planning experience. He started his career in banking at Shawmut Bank and in 1991 founded Trust Tax Services Of America, acquired by SunGard in 2003. Among his past positions are President, Merchants Trust Company; Vice President, State Street Bank; and Executive Vice President, Martha’s Vineyard Savings Bank. His love of local and American history has drawn him to work with a number of historic institutions. His current job is for the Concord Museum as Director of Finance and Operations. As a volunteer, he serves on the Massachusetts Historical Society Board as Trustee and Chair of its Collections and of the Audit Committees. He has been a resident of Falmouth since 2008. In that time, he has been chair of the Town of Falmouth’s Finance Committee and of the Falmouth Public

Library Support Fund. He also was previously on the FHS Board. In the past year, he served on the Search Committee for our new Executive Director. He has degrees from Bentley (BS, accounting) (also now chair of its Legacy Society), Bryant University (MST), and Nichols College (MBA). His desire to serve his community and support our new Executive Director has led him to volunteer again for the FHS Board. Up for new three-year term.

John Shemo

John has extensive experience as a Board member and leader of a wide variety of non-profits, mostly in the Hartford, CT area. For 18 years he served on staff as Vice President and Director of Economic Development for the MetroHartford Alliance. For the last three years of that time, VP of Entrepreneurial Ecosystems was added to his portfolio. Significant among his volunteer activities were with the Northeastern Developers Association and the Rotary Club of East Hartford; for both organizations, he served as President. He and his wife Deb (a former FHS staff person) became Falmouth property owners in 2008 and year-around residents in 2016. In Falmouth John has volunteered with VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools), teaching a entrepreneurship program to 4th graders. John's formal education is with University of Connecticut (BA) and University of Hartford (Master of Public Administration). Will be new to FHS Board, three-year term.

Heather Shepley

Heather has lived, worked and volunteered in Falmouth since 1980. Originally trained as a professional dancer, she has been a physical therapist for the past 32 years, for much of that time and currently with Cape Cod Healthcare. Specializing in geriatric rehabilitation, she interacts with the community on a daily basis. Over the years, she has been an active participant in a variety of roles in the performing arts in Falmouth. Falmouth Theatre Guild, Dancer's Studio and her own dance company, Summer Dance Theatre are just some of the organizations she has worked with. A past member of the Vestry for Church of the Messiah, she took a leadership role in the preservation, and related fundraising, for the Woods Hole cemeteries. Eckerd College (BA), New York University (MFA in dance) and Boston University (MS in Physical Therapy). Will be new to FHS Board, three-year term.

Tim Smith

Tim combines a love of American history with a background in business and finance. He also has owned, lived in and kept repaired two historic houses, including his current home in Falmouth. All of these factors combine to give him useful perspectives for a Board member of the Historical Society. Tim majored in economics at Colgate University and has a MS in accounting from Bentley University. Early in his career he held increasingly responsible financial positions in large businesses; for the next almost 30 years he ran his own small business enterprises in the furniture industry, retiring in 2012. For the past 5 years, he has been a volunteer at FHS/MOG, primarily in the gift shop. He began as a FHS Board member in August 2022 and is up for election for a full three-year term.

Ann Nagel Stone

Semi-retired occupational therapist, currently working at JML Care Center in Falmouth. Previously worked at hospitals and healthcare facilities on the Cape and in northern New England. Bates College (BA) and Sargent College of Boston University (MSOT). Resident of Falmouth since 1982 with her husband Tom where they have their raised their two now adult children. At the First Congregational Church, she has been a Deacon and co-chair of its Capital Campaign and now is on the Outreach Committee. She is on the Board of the Upper Cape Chaplaincy, an elected member of the Falmouth Democratic Town Committee, member of the Falmouth Gun Safety Coalition and a member of Falmouth

Newcomers. For FHS/MOG, she has been a walking guide for a number of years and more recently joined the Collections Committee. Ann has completed one three-year term as a FHS Board member and is up for re-election for a second three-year term.

Carolyn Tarr

Carolyn Tarr has lived in North Falmouth for most of her life. This is where she and her husband John raised their three daughters, now adults. Recently the oldest and their son-in-law have moved back to North Falmouth with five grandchildren. It is a joy but also an education in what challenges and advantages there are for young families in Falmouth today. When her own family was young Carolyn combined a variety of work-life experiences. In the early years she was a floral designer while also helping her husband run his business as a self-employed contractor. She then worked as an Event Manager first at Highfield Hall and next at Museums on the Green for a total of over 12 years. While at the Museums, she also managed the office and coordinated volunteers. Currently employed as a Furniture Artist at Vintage Furniture Reclaimed in West Falmouth, she redesigns vintage pieces for modern homes. Art, with its endless possibilities, is her passion. Carolyn has developed deep roots in the community through personal and professional relationships from work, neighborhood boards and her children's schools. She has a strong appreciation for the town and its unique history. On the FHS Board since August 2022, she is up for election for a full three-year term.

Continuing Board Members

David Brassard (term expires Jan. 2025)

Judy Durham (term expires Jan./2025)

Danielle Velesig (term expires Jan. 2025)

Judy Durham: Retired in 2016, after teaching elementary school in Connecticut and Maryland for over 18 years. Prior to that, she worked for Aetna Property and Casualty for almost 20 years as an underwriter and in product development. Judy held a variety of positions in both fields. Most recently she was a grade team leader, working collaboratively to successfully plan and implement the Common Core Curriculum for the first grade. Judy holds a B.A. in English from St. Olaf College and a Masters in Education from the University of Hartford. She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. Judy has been involved in many volunteer projects. She was co-manager of soliciting businesses for donated materials, as a member of the planning committee of a large community project to build a Leathers Playscape in her hometown. Currently, Judy volunteers at The Falmouth Service Center, Hand-in-Hand Thrift Store, and is Correspondence Secretary for the Outreach Committee of her church. Judy has been a part of the MOG Third Grade Colonial Program. As a previous educator, Judy is interested in bringing history to life through programing for our children, and the local school system.

Danielle Velesig: A former middle school social studies teacher, Danielle is the liaison for the Inspired By Nature program with the Falmouth Historical Society. She is a former teacher and administrator at Rising Tide Charter Public School (RTCPS) in Plymouth, MA.; a former school coordinator for National History Day program at RTCPS; and a former Co-Chairperson of the Advisory Committee at Lawrence School. Danielle currently teaches history at Falmouth High School. Danielle, husband David, and two children have been Falmouth residents since 2007.

David Brassard: Retired in 2010 after 39 years at Babson Capital Management, the institutional investment subsidiary of Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. David specialized in commercial real estate focusing on commercial mortgage originations, real estate capital markets and portfolio and risk management. David began his career at MassMutual in the General Accounting group performing a wide variety of financial and accounting roles. David holds an undergraduate degree in accounting and a master's degree in business administration.