

## **FALMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **President, 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, and works at Nest and Feathers on Main Street. 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.

### **Vice President, John Bissonnette**

John Bissonnette's roots in Falmouth stretch back to the town's renowned Lawrence whaling family. A graduate of Falmouth High School in 1981, John's educational journey continued at Boston College for his bachelor's degree and later at the University of Kansas for his Masters. Following a career as a Social Studies teacher and coach for three decades in Missouri, John, along with his wife Lonna, opened an antiques store in Liberty, Missouri, and embraced civic engagement actively participating in various town committees. Upon retiring from the store, the couple returned to Falmouth, where they purchased a historic 1920's home. John is a wonderful asset to the Falmouth Historical Society with his whaling connections, and he has been contributing to the community by volunteering in the gift shop and leading engaging walking tours since the summer of 2023. His passion for Falmouth's heritage shines through in every facet of his involvement.

### **Treasurer, Robert G. Ripley, Jr.**

Bob 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 most recent position was with 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. Currently serving on the Town's 250<sup>th</sup> Committee as Chair. He also was previously on the FHS Board. He served on the Search Committee for our Executive Director in 2022. 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 Executive Director has led him to volunteer again for the FHS Board.

### **Secretary, Robin Ketchum**

Robin has a deep love of Falmouth history having grown up in town and gone through the public schools. She has worked in a diversity of fields including marketing and design, administration for an estate attorney, and an administrative secretary for the Charter Review Committee. After her professional career, Robin dedicated her time to many civic causes in town, including her time as Past President of the Falmouth Garden Club. An avid crafter, she is interested in helping out with children's programming here at the museum. She has been instrumental in the success of our annual Halloween Wicked at Wicks Children's program.

### **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 Master's in Education from the University of Hartford. She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society Education. Judy has been involved in many volunteer projects. She was a 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 programming for our children and the local school system.

### **Linda Karmen**

Linda Karmen is a Falmouth resident with a deep interest in the town's history and a strong background in education and public service. She grew up in Connecticut and has a love of New England history. She worked as an early education teacher, Director of countywide pre-school services, and Deputy Commissioner of a Health Department where she oversaw a multi-million-dollar budget and a staff of over 300. Linda brings extensive experience in administration, collaboration, and strategic leadership, along with a creative approach to problem solving and program development. Linda holds a BA from Mount Holyoke College and an MS in Early Childhood and Special Education from Syracuse University. Her volunteer service includes current work with Be BOLD and the Falmouth Service Center, as well as past leadership with VIPS. She values teamwork, enjoys working with people, and is enthusiastic to contribute her skills to advance the mission of the Falmouth Historical Society. Linda and her husband moved to Falmouth in 2017 to be closer to their children and grandchildren, who also live in the area.

### **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 five years on active duty with the United States Air Force and 30 years in the USAF Reserves, retiring in 2005 as a Colonel. With degrees from Trinity College (BA) and the 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, Katherine Lee Bates Poetry Fest, readings for July 4th and Teddy Bear Picnic. He spearheaded a 2015 dinner honoring 25 WWII veterans. Rocco enjoys interacting with the public while telling 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.

### **Tom Mountford**

Tom has been an invaluable member of our community and one of the longest serving volunteers at the Society. His deep-rooted commitment to preserving and sharing Falmouth's history makes him a natural choice to help guide our organization into the future.

Tom's extensive knowledge of local history stems not only from his work with the Society but also from his distinguished career as a Falmouth Police Officer, a role he fulfilled with dedication for more than 32 years until his retirement in 2009. During his service, Tom developed a profound understanding of the town, its people, and its history, which he now brings to life through his engaging and informative walking tours. These tours have become a cornerstone of our programming, delighting thousands of visitors over the years.

In addition to his professional and volunteer accomplishments, Tom is a respected figure in the Falmouth community. His passion for preserving the town's rich history, combined with his ability to connect with people, makes him an exceptional candidate for our Board.

### **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, much of that time currently with Cape Cod Healthcare. Specializing in geriatric rehabilitation, she interacts with the community on a daily basis. Over the years, she has actively participated in various 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 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 a new FHS Board, three-year term.